

Croatian president's call to arms electrifies a nation



Sound of silence: a Yugoslav soldier blocking his ears during a mortar attack on Vukovar yesterday

"CITIZENS of Croatia, I am addressing you at this dramatic and fatal moment for Croatia. A wave of enemy, greater Serbian soldiers has crashed down on our homeland, their purpose is to return us to national slavery and bolshevik darkness, to take from us Croatian areas which have always been part of Croatia."

The call-up announcement from Franjo Tudjman, the president of Croatia, came just before midnight on Saturday, relayed to homes throughout the breakaway republic on television screens already showing the blurred effect of an earlier attack on the Zagreb transmitter by two MIG jets of the federal air force. The call-up came at the end of a day of bloodshed and rising

As the European Community threatened yesterday to impose sanctions against Yugoslavia to enforce the ceasefire agreed last Friday, Croatia was mobilising for war. Christopher Walker reports on the mood in Zagreb

tension in which any hope of the latest peace accord taking effect was dashed by endless bickering between the Serbian and Croatian sides about the timing and method by which any ceasefire should be applied.

At the wedding reception being held in Zagreb's smartest hotel, the effect of the president's words was electric, with many young men leaving immediately to find out details of where and how to sign up. Some gave each other fascist salutes as patriotic music filled the room.

Mr Tudjman, his face showing signs of strain of the 24

hours since he returned from The Netherlands, pulled no punches in rhetoric which won him new friends among ultra-nationalists bitterly critical of his attempts to negotiate a ceasefire at a moment when the republic had lost one-third of its territory. "The greater Serbian imperialists and the bloodthirsty remnants of the Yugoslav communist military crossed over to a general attack on Croatia, violating all international ceasefire agreements. This demands that we mobilise all our forces in a defensive war."

At the wedding of Lorana Ribaric and Davor Pliso, who

said that they were going to enjoy their night in the hotel's plush honeymoon suite before he reported for duty in the morning, Western guests were besieged by young Croats demanding military information. Their knowledge of military matters was painfully thin.

"We know that we are the David in this war against Goliath, but we feel we have the cause of right and democracy on our side. The Yugoslav army does not really want to fight," claimed Cujat Zlatan, an executive for a large chemical company who was fortifying his courage with

liberal helpings of plum brandy. "It was like Britain in 1939. We have no alternative but to fight."

Many women guests broke down in tears at news of the call-up. One weeping Croatian housewife, aged 25, said that she had not seen her husband since he left for the front line three weeks earlier.

"The Yugoslav war machine, shaking in its armour from fear faced with the decisiveness of the Croats, and the fury of the long-suffering Croat people, is not expecting anything other than a shameful defeat," declared the president, addressing a people whose able-bodied menfolk outnumber by five times the weaponry available to them.

"In these troubled times and at this historical turning

point, I call on you brothers and sisters, to fulfil your sacred duty in the defence of the homeland. We are ready to battle for the freedom of our Croatian country, our sea and sky over our one and eternal Croatia."

At the Pliso wedding, a party already depleted by scores of guests because of the eerie blackout in effect throughout Croatia, the bravado of some young men, due to be kitted out with old East German army uniforms the next morning, was mixed with anxiety.

"We know that we are going to face tanks and aeroplanes," Mr Zlatan explained. "But it is time for us to call on our greatest strength, our people."

Zagreb sounds alert, page 10

Tories aim to boost NHS and cut taxes

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE tax cuts and sustained economic growth were promised by Tory leaders yesterday as they tried to win back the political initiative from Labour and shift attention from the damaging charge that the NHS was a target for privatisation. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, is expected to unveil details of a health service "constitution" at the party's conference in Blackpool this week.

This would enshrine the universal right to free treatment, as an introduction to the patients' charter, which the government has promised will set out guarantees for waiting times. A telephone poll for yesterday's Sunday Times showed that most people believe that the Tories intend to privatise the health service. However, Mr Waldegrave told BBC Radio yesterday that he was determined "to nail" that charge.

As Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, tried to focus on the party's traditional economic strengths, Tory morale suffered a new blow last night when a poll of 10,000 people put Labour two percentage points ahead of the Conservatives.

The Press Association/ICM survey was carried out partly before Neil Kinnock's keynote speech at the Labour conference last week. The findings showed 42 per cent support for Labour, 40 per cent for the Conservatives, and 15 per cent for the Liberal Democrats. An NOP poll for The Independent on Sunday, carried out after Labour's Brighton conference, gave Mr Kinnock's party a seven-point lead.

The Conservatives will, however, be encouraged by the findings of a Mori aggregate poll in The Times today, which show that the longer-term trends indicate a Tory recovery from its 12-point deficit a year ago.

The patients' charter, which has already been launched separately in Scotland, will include an overall guarantee of treatment within two years and a new complaints procedure.

Patients will receive a letter as soon as they join a queue for hospital treatment telling them how long they can expect to wait. It will also tell them the names of the health authority manager to complain to if treatment is inadequate and patients will be entrusted to a named nurse or midwife when they enter hospital.

Mr Patten yesterday echoed John Major's view that there was "no doubt" that Britain was coming out of the recession. He said that there would be sustained, non-inflationary growth during the 1990s and he was confident that the Tories would be able both to increase spending on the public services and cut taxes. In a direct attack on Labour's rejection of tax cuts, Mr Patten argued that as international competition grew

Continued on page 20, col 3



Shortness of breath: Nicola Maher, aged four, from Catford, southeast London, getting to grips with her father's tuba at the national brass band championships in London, which was won by the Desford Colliery Caterpillar Band, Leicestershire

IRA orders out drug suspects

By JAMIE DETTMER

TWO dozen alleged drug dealers, including four men who were shot in so-called republican punishment shootings at the weekend, have been told by the Provisional IRA to get out of Northern Ireland or suffer the consequences.

The IRA's move was widely

seen in the province as part of an effort to assert its authority in working-class Catholic areas and to try to distinguish itself from other paramilitary groups involved in drugs.

The four men who were shot late on Saturday night in Catholic west Belfast are said

by police to be in a stable condition in hospital. The men, who suffered serious leg and arm injuries, are in their early and mid-twenties. Police said that the shootings were particularly severe.

Yesterday, nationalist politicians condemned the IRA action and urged people in the province to inform the police if they have any information on drug related activity.

Northern Ireland has a small hard drugs problem but cannabis has been appearing in the province in large quantities. The increase in soft drug abuse is related to an expansion of the "rave party" scene in Belfast, Ulster's equivalent of Britain's acid house parties.

Pay deals fall sharply

THE latest survey of pay deals from the Confederation of British Industry shows wage increases falling to 5.5 per cent in the past three months (Philip Bassett writes).

In the previous CBI survey, pay deals showed their sharpest fall for a decade when they dropped from 8.1 per cent to 6.4 per cent. Now, one

settlement in four is less than 4 per cent, compared with only one in 20 in the fourth quarter of last year.

John Banham, CBI director general, said pay settlements in UK manufacturing industry were now below those in west Germany.

Rises at 5.5%, page 21

Knee-capping outcry, page 2

Major greets Moscow arms cuts

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major last night welcomed President Gorbachev's weekend promise of sweeping nuclear weapons cuts in response to President Bush's arms cuts offer 10 days ago.

But despite his hailing the Soviet move as a "turning point in the peace process", Labour and Liberal Democrats argued that the prime minister was not going far enough.

At the weekend President Gorbachev announced that Moscow would not only match but also go beyond President Bush's offer. He said Moscow would make deeper cuts in long-range strategic nuclear weapons than envisaged in the Start treaty signed in June. Mr Gorbachev offered to eliminate all nuclear artillery shells and warheads for tactical missiles as well as removing all tactical nuclear weapons from naval vessels. In addition Moscow would reduce the four million-strong Soviet army by 700,000 and order a one-year freeze on nuclear testing.

Gerald Kaufman, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, said that vague words of commendation for such sweeping moves were not enough. Britain should act at once to secure a permanent ban on the testing of nuclear weapons. Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, urged more effective international machinery to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

For the Liberal Democrats, Sir David Steel said that up to £500 million could be saved by limiting the number of Trident warheads to the same firepower as Polaris. Another £1 billion could be saved by cancelling the tactical air-to-surface missile project.

The prime minister said there appeared to be a unique opportunity for a dramatic de-escalation in nuclear weaponry. "I welcome that very much and we will want very carefully to study proposals that have been laid before us." But Mr Major said the super-power arms cuts would not be mirrored by more reductions in Britain's own nuclear arsenal. "We have made reductions in our nuclear weapons over recent weeks and we have announced this."

He went on: "Trident is the essential minimum defence that we need in this country and we must maintain Trident."

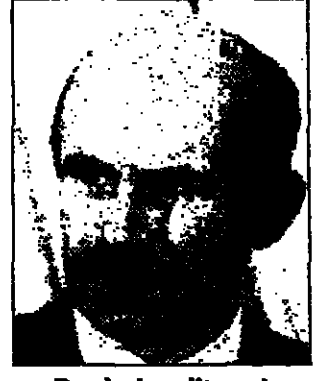
Gorbachev paves way, page 11

Nato undermined, page 11

Leading article, page 15

Making world a safer place

In his first article for a Western newspaper, the Soviet leader's interpreter, Pavel Palazchenko, argues in a personal view that East and West must now define what is meant by minimum deterrence



Pavel: absurdity and hypocrisy at an end

The nuclear disarmament initiatives of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev take the world into new territory. It is important to think through the implications.

We are finally ending the absurdity and hypocrisy of negotiating nuclear disarmament while increasing the numbers of weapons. We are ending the needless and costly "escalation of verification", which is a sign of new trust between the US and the Soviet Union. And we are removing nuclear weapons from the battlefield, where they directly face combat forces.

The last point is important. No scenario of eventual use of nuclear weapons was based on the assumption that it would start with the central strategic systems. Indeed, American policy specifically excludes first use of strategic weapons and the Soviet Union has long proclaimed no first use of any nuclear weapons. With tactical nuclear weapons destroyed or removed to storage far away no first use becomes a common policy.

The remaining nuclear weapons thus become a genuine ultimate deterrent rather than a part of a realistic war scenario. Their numbers will therefore have

to be re-evaluated. Inevitably they will be reduced. In fact the only question is how to quantify minimum deterrence and how to move prudently towards the much lower number of strategic weapons.

Cutting the numbers also affects global security. Once the Soviet Union comes out of its current turmoil, the probable challenges will come mostly from the Third World. The north/south conflict may one day become as dangerous as the East/West confrontation of recent past.

The weapons now being removed could never be of any use in meeting challenges from the Third World. Their use was never

Continued on page 20, col 8

TODAY IN THE TIMES



Hollywood's latest weepie, about an ageing film star who marries a nobody she meets in a drink and drugs clinic, stars Liz Taylor and was watched by millions. William Cash on page 14

FRESHERS' GUIDE

Good news - higher education is expanding. Bad news - student accommodation isn't. The Times Student Survey charts the rising cost of academic living. Page 26

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Cyclone from the Pacific devastates Wales

By DAVID MILLER

HURRICANE Samoa struck the South Wales coast yesterday afternoon, leaving a trail of devastation and despair. Estimates of the full extent of the damage inflicted vary. Many were dazed and several needed medical attention. Early warning forecasts of the force of the hurricane did little to lessen the psychological impact.

There has been nothing like this moment in the history of rugby union. Western Samoa's World Cup defeat of Wales by 16-13 at Cardiff Arms Park shook the game, never mind the Welsh, to its foundations. The walls of the favoured International Rugby Football Board stronghold, the last "private" governing body in international sport along with the R & A, were breached. Samoa took fearsome revenge for being excluded from the first World Cup four

years ago, when they were South Pacific champions.

Back home in Apia, where beach rugby is played with a ferocity that is astonishing to any visitor, a 30,000 crowd was watching the match live at the racecourse on five television screens lent by New Zealand TV. There are few people who give a better party than the Samoans, and they will be swaying with joy in their southern fashion for the next few days.

"A pity it was Wales and not England," their one accompanying journalist commented. The Samoans, population 170,000, see the Welsh as a fellow minority people. The luckless Welsh, for an hour, had not seen much of anything. Though the score was 3-3 at half-time, they were being torn almost limb from limb.

May, Clement and Collins limped from the field; a few others may well

voluntarily have wished to join them. The formidable Pita Fatiafola, Samoa's captain and prop, asked afterwards whether they would save themselves against Australia to ensure victory and quarter-final qualification against Argentina, replied emphatically: "We're saving ourselves from nothing."

Trying to comfort a Welsh colleague, someone had pointed out that ten of the Samoan team are resident in New Zealand, that it was effectively a New Zealand XV. "Time was when we beat the A team," lamented Taffy.

I have seen, occasionally, New Zealand at their hardest, but not even they compared with some of the Samoans on the rampage. These Pacific Islanders,

Continued on page 20, col 5



Winning smile: Samoa's Pat Lam yesterday

Irish ran riot, page 31
Wales match report, page 36

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IRA knee-capping of alleged drug dealers condemned



Kearns and Madigan who protest their innocence

THE IRA's self-proclaimed war on drugs trafficking in Northern Ireland, which was renewed through weekend threats and punishment shootings, may well receive tacit approval from working class Catholics who are tired of the high levels of crime in their districts.

Previous campaigns by Republican gunmen against petty theft and joy riding have enjoyed support from Catholics in west Belfast and Londonderry. Many people in run down Catholic areas believe the police have failed to combat crime unconnected with para-military activity. The police say that the residents forget that the security

The IRA has donned the mantle of social vigilante with renewed vigour. Few are impressed. Jamie Dettmer reports

forces have to be cautious in their approach in such hostile Republican areas.

The weekend action by the IRA was designed to attract widespread media reaction. The threats were issued after three punishment shootings in Catholic west Belfast on Saturday night. Four men, now stable in hospital, were wounded. Two alleged drug pushers in their twenties were confronted by IRA

gunmen on waste ground and shot in both knees. An hour later a man aged 25 was shot in both knees and both elbows, followed soon afterwards by a 23-year-old who was shot in the legs.

IRA gunmen have not carried out such severe so-called punishment shootings since January 1989 when several men were shot in several limbs. The 1989 shootings were part of a purge of petty thieves

and joy riders whom the IRA feared were acting as police informants.

The IRA action was condemned by nationalist politicians and the police. "They're trying to give the perception that they are trying to protect the community, but of course everybody knows differently," Joe Hendron, an SDLP councillor in Belfast, said. A police spokesman said: "The answer to the criminality of drug pushers is not the criminality of terrorists. They both ruin lives."

The IRA also said over 20 Belfast pubs and clubs were visited at the weekend and told to keep out the pushers. The IRA says that other

paramilitary groups — the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force and the nationalist INLA and IFLO — are involved in drug trafficking. Senior police officers accept that the IRA does not deal in drugs, although there have been suggestions that it has demanded protection money from dealers.

In August the IRA was widely criticised by Catholics among others for ordering six men to leave Northern Ireland. Yesterday, two of them, Liam Kerns and David Madigan, insisted they were innocent.

Drug suspects, page 1

Union head defends Japanese practices

Trade union leaders are today accused by one of the largest unions in the country of cowardice and ineptitude and crass stupidity over their attack on Japanese working practices (Philip Bassett writes).

The attack on the general council of the Trades Union Congress, the TUC's governing body, comes from Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the TUC's fourth-largest, who is not a member of the TUC general council.

It comes after a decision by the TUC at its annual conference in Glasgow last month to carry a motion, with only the AEU and the GMB general union voting against, from the left-led MSP general technical union attacking the "alien" practices of Japanese companies which have set up in Britain.

Ennals dies

Martin Ennals, former secretary-general of Amnesty International and general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, has died aged 64 in Canada. He had fought a year-long struggle against cancer. Mr Ennals was born in Walsall, West Midlands, into a politically active family. He joined Amnesty International as secretary-general in 1968.

Obituary, page 16

9,000 at party

Two men were in hospital with stab wounds and 36 people in police custody after an all-night party at a sports centre attracted three times as many people than expected. More than 9,000 ticket-holders turned up at the Sobell centre in Holloway, north London, when only 3,000 were expected. It was not until 3.30am, six hours after the party was due to start, that everybody was admitted.

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today National breast screening programme launched at start of Europe against Cancer week. Credit business and retail sales figures for August released.

Tomorrow First day of Conservative party conference, Blackpool. Royal Horticultural Society flower show opens in London.

Wednesday National Rivers Authority brings prosecution against chemical company, Albright and Wilson, for alleged illegal discharge.

Thursday The Duchess of York opens Sick Children's Trust Home from Home in London.

Friday Top secretary award announced. Retail price index figures published.

Saturday International chess championship begins, Tilburg, The Netherlands.

Sunday National Canine Defence League dog show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

Clarke admits drawbacks to school leagues

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, conceded yesterday that the league tables of examination results promised under the parents' charter would not provide a full guide to schools' quality.

"Those who argue that examination results are not the be-all and end-all of education will find that I agree with them," he said in an ITV interview. Mr Clarke accepted that some schools could fairly claim that local league tables underestimated their performance because of social factors.

However, he again dismissed claims that a more sophisticated system was required. "Listening to the Labour party, you would think that alongside examination results you need statistical tables with the sociological-economic background of the parents. What you do not want is miles and miles of complicated stuff. The whole instinct of the British public services are to offer tremendous amounts of information smothering the whole thing."

He added: "The person in charge of introducing the parents' charter has to be anti-bureaucratic, who sympathises with Joe Public."

Mr Clarke said that the information published under the charter would expose under-achievement in schools and stimulate teachers to improve their performance.

"Teachers are going to feel their own sense of professionalism challenged," he said. "Many of them don't know really how they fare compared with others."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Clarke's claim that publication of examination league tables will shame teachers into trying harder displays a desperately sad and sterile approach to managing the education service. Management by shame and humiliation will only demoralise further and drive out more teachers. It might make good schools better but it will probably make the bad ones worse."

Two teaching unions today dismiss the government's pay reforms in schools as a "non-event". A survey by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association and the National Association of Head Teachers found that most staff had failed to benefit from performance-related pay.

Their report gives a warning to Mr Clarke that he would be "profoundly ill-advised" to extend the £150 million system of discretionary awards. Incentive payments were failing to keep the best teachers in the profession and to attract highly qualified entrants.

Education, pages 26, 27



Shining examples: service-goers relax after the harvest festival for pearly kings and queens at St Martin-in-the-Fields yesterday. The church was packed to see pearly kings and queens from all over London bring produce

NHS reforms

Trusts hold back pay rises

By JILL SHERMAN AND LOUISE HIDALGO

MOST hospitals that have opted out of health authority control are not using their new powers to set pay rates outside nationally negotiated levels, according to a survey by The Times. The two principal

distinctions between NHS trusts and directly managed hospitals were supposed to be the freedom to set their own pay rates and to borrow capital from the private sector. The Treasury effectively

stopped trusts borrowing from the private sector this year by setting low external financing limits. The government stripped trusts of the freedom to set their own salaries for junior doctors.

However, the survey shows that most trusts have also failed to change their pay levels for other staff. Most of the 37 trusts set up in April have kept to Whiteley pay rates or levels dictated by the pay review bodies to avoid union disruption and control costs.

Although Guy's trust is planning to implement a £6million savings and investment package to allow 5 per cent pay increases above the going rate for many staff, other hospitals have been less imaginative. Some trusts have introduced limited measures such as more pay flexibility for senior managers.

Other self-governing hospitals have changed their employment benefits instead. Walsall trust has introduced paternity leave while the Mid-Cheshire trust has altered holiday entitlement.

Loss of nurses is 'costing £24m'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE turnover in jobs among experienced nurses in the national health service is costing up to £24 million each year, or almost £5.50 per day for each NHS patient, the Royal College of Nursing says today. Its claim, based on detailed research on the cost of losing and replacing experienced nurses, is likely to be considered seriously by ministers.

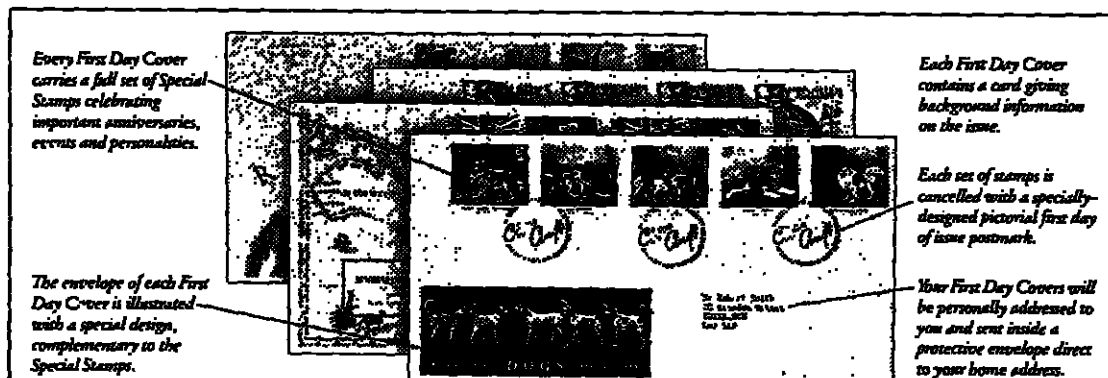
The claim and the research are being submitted by the college as part of its evidence to the government's pay review body for nurses. The nurses' staff side, including the college, is calling for 9 per cent pay increases this year with up to 21 per cent for lowest-paid grades.

Using research commissioned from Sussex University's Institute of Manpower Studies, the college says that each nurse leaving the health service costs the NHS an average of £3,000. The cost of

losing a nurse — including the separation costs, the cost of a temporary replacement, of recruitment and selection of a permanent replacement and of the replacement's induction and training — varies between £1,250 and £7,760.

The institute says that a 350-bed hospital employing 700 nurses would under present turnover rates incur nurse turnover costs of £525,000 a year, or 6.8 per cent of its pay bill. With patient occupancy at 75 per cent, that is equivalent to £5.47 per patient day.

The college says that the average turnover rate of 25 per cent is equivalent to 80,000 nurses leaving the NHS every year. At an average cost of £3,000, that is a loss of £24 million. The college says that if turnover could be reduced from 25 to 15 per cent, the average 350-bed hospital could save £210,000 each year, or £6.4 million nationally.



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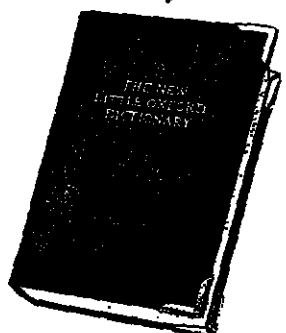
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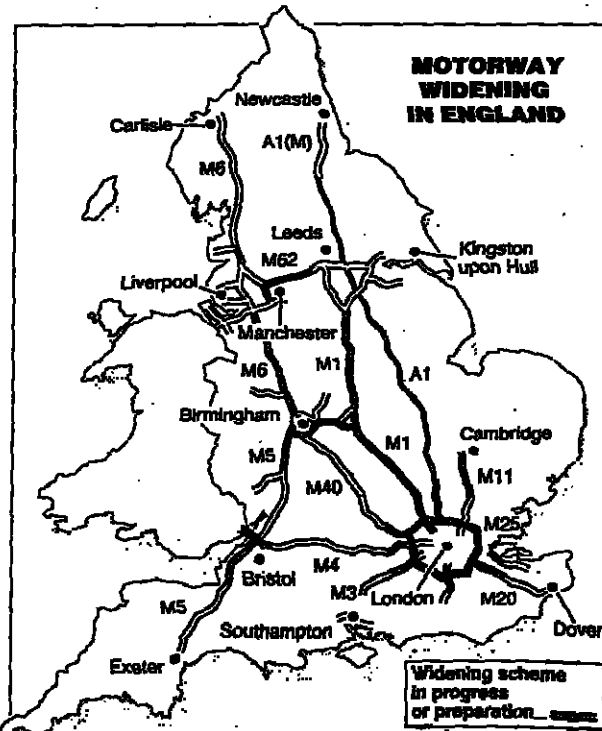
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Motorways scheme faces a rough ride

The road to wider motorways is likely to be far from smooth. Michael Dynes reports

AMBITIOUS plans to widen about a third of the 1,650 miles of motorway in England have begun in earnest with the decision to upgrade the M25 to four lanes in each direction, one of the first of 25 new motorway widening schemes. Under the Roads For Prosperity programme unveiled in 1989, the transport department is aiming to widen about 600 miles of motorway in the next decade. Nothing on this scale has been attempted before, and many road users fear the expansion will mean many more traffic cones, delays and diversions.

Environmental groups have denounced the programme as a multi-billion pound exercise in futility. They say that the money would be better spent on public transport, and predict that when the work is finished increased vehicle numbers will have left the motorway network in the same congested condition it is in today.



necessitating their demolition. On the tenth floor of an office building in Coventry, Dr John Denning, director of the department's motorway widening unit, says that the widening programme is essential for the economy. "It's going to be an enormous task," he said. "But the more I study it, the more I am convinced that the reasons for widening make sense."

Dr Denning's unit, established in April 1990, will be overseeing the programme, which is expected to cost the taxpayer about £5.6 billion. Supported by a 100-strong task force, the unit has divided the national motorway network for widening into 25 segments, each of which has been put out to tender by private sector consultants. "We have to evaluate each section to decide which of the options for widening are most

appropriate," Dr Denning said. "Where we have a choice some options will be ruled out because they would take the motorway too close to residential areas, while others will be rejected because they will cause too much disruption to traffic."

Modern techniques have increased the options for expanding motorways in the last ten years. By taking a strip of land on one or both sides of a motorway, additional lanes can be constructed with minimal disruption to traffic.

Work on the first scheme between junctions 6 and 8 on the M5 started in July. The last 13 miles of four-lane motorway between Birmingham and Exeter, used by a quarter of a million vehicles a week, will be upgraded to a six-lane motorway within two years.

Preliminary decisions on some of the remaining 24 schemes are expected to be taken in the next six months. "Ministers naturally take a close interest in such decisions," said Dr Denning.

When the preferred options have been identified, exhibitions will be mounted to explain individual widening plans to local residents. Some properties will be affected, but it is too early to say exactly how many.

"I hesitate to say that the entire programme will go without a hitch," Dr Denning said. "But we have a lot of people working hard to minimise its impact."

Hotels accused of overcharging for cancelled rooms

MANY hotels are unfairly penalising guests who cancel accommodation, say consumer groups. The Consumers' Association and Citizens Advice Bureau report an increase in complaints from people who have been asked to pay the full price or more for rooms they have not used.

The groups believe that hotels are taking a tough and often unjustified line because they are feeling the effects of the recession and a shortage of foreign tourists.

In cases uncovered by *The Times*, one family was charged £890 after leaving its holiday hotel after two nights and an American couple faces legal action over a demand for £600 from an hotel they never used. In some cases hotels have put the charge on guests' credit cards and the victims are finding it difficult to get money back from the credit card companies.

"Some hoteliers seem to be acting above the law," Anne Harvey, a Consumers' Association lawyer, said. "Many guests are unaware that they can challenge these charges and it is important that they do so for the sake of all hotel users."

The criticism of hoteliers' policy on cancellations comes after attacks in two new hotel guides. The 1992 *Good Hotel Guide* accuses leading hotels of "eye-popping extortion" in the prices they charge for extra. The *Which? Hotel Guide* says that some hoteliers are "mean, rude and deaf to their customers' needs".

In one case investigated by *The Times*, Graham Hibbert from Orpington, Kent,

Tony Dawes examines a rise in cases which leave guests who walk out bitter over their bills

booked a brief summer holiday for his wife Carol and three children at short notice at the Swainston Manor Hotel, near Newport on the Isle of Wight. He says he was quoted a bed and breakfast rate of £505 for the four nights in August and gave his National Westminster Bank gold card number.

He says that there was a minor fault with the accommodation and that he was particularly incensed on the second afternoon when the manager walked into his room without knocking to show around potential guests. The Hibberts left the next morning without informing the staff but did notify the hotel later in the day. When his gold card statement arrived last month, Mr Hibbert found that he had been charged £890.

"We feel we have been taken for a ride," he said. "We are also disappointed by the attitude of the gold card people who say they cannot act as arbitrators in the case and will do nothing for us."

Fred Woodward, the hotel manager, said that the bill was justified and that a figure of £505 had never been mentioned. "I charged the five of them at the bed and breakfast rate of £38 each for the four days, which came to a total of £760. They had a few extras

like meals for the children and I added a 10 per cent service charge on top of that to reach the total of £890.

"I am quite satisfied that we have done nothing improper. The Hibberts broke their contract with us by leaving without informing us or paying the bill. I couldn't let his rooms for an odd night in the middle of a holiday period and feel justified in charging him for them."

Rita Gromb from Golders Green, north London, booked two double rooms for her husband, herself and an American cousin and his wife in July at the award winning Amberley Castle Hotel in West Sussex. They were in the area the day before they were due to stay and took a look at the accommodation. The busin, Ralph Lubow, from Baltimore, who was going to pay the bill, decided that the accommodation was unsuitable and cancelled the booking, offering to pay for the first night if the hotel was unable to let the rooms again. Amberley Castle let the room for the first night but not for the next two and is demanding the full £600 for those two nights. Mr Lubow has refused to pay.

Mrs Gromb said: "He comes to England a lot and likes to stay in the best hotels. He was not happy with the accommodation offered at Amberley Castle and is not prepared to pay. He couldn't care less about the money, it's the principle."

Martin Cummings, the hotel owner, said: "This is not a hard luck story. This is someone who was playing the system. Mr Lubow had got a better deal than we could offer from the hotel where he was already staying. There is a £2½ million investment in this small castle with only 12 rooms and 30 covers in the restaurant. Not only have I lost revenue from the cancellation, but I have also lost the opportunity to sell them dinner, tea and coffee. I am going to get the full amount and am instructing my solicitors."

Ann Harvey of the Consumers' Association challenges the attitude of the hoteliers and says that in law the most they can recover is lost profit which could, however, be as much as two thirds of the cost. "Mr Hibbert should not accept his charge and should be prepared to use all available procedures to obtain a credit to his gold card account," she said.

Ron Williams, NatWest's director of payment services, said that the bank does take action on customers' behaviour in thousands of cases every year. "If the cardholder can convince us that he has not received services for which he has been charged, we will credit his account and debit the company responsible," he said.

Ruling on Sunday working welcomed

By JENNY KNIGHT

THE Keep Sunday Special Campaign last night welcomed an industrial tribunal ruling that a man who lost his job after refusing to work on Sundays was unfairly dismissed.

Robert George's victory over his employers, Plant Breeding International, was described as a legal landmark by the campaign, which took up his case. A spokesman said: "This is a major victory for the principle of Sunday rest."

In its ruling, the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds said: "Unless time is created for members of the family to meet and relate to one another, family life in Britain is likely to continue to show fragmentation of family relationships."

Mr George, aged 43, a father of two from Thriplow, Cam-

bridgeshire, was sacked from his £9,500-a-year seed-packing job last year for refusing to work 12-hour days, seven days a week during the harvest period. The tribunal was told that Mr George had wanted Sundays off to be with his family and attend church.

Last night the Sunday Shopping Hours Reform Council also welcomed the decision. Roger Boaden director said: "The need to protect shop staff has always been a key part of our policy. Now we know it can be done."

During the hearing, Plant Breeding International, a Cambridge-based subsidiary of Unilever, said Mr George knew when he took the job that he would have to work overtime and weekends between July and October.

being fattened up in cages belonging to Shetland Islands' council, one of 17 companies and organisations in the new British Halibut Association.

The association, with the Sea Fish Industry Authority, is investigating the idea of farming the flatfish with trials at the Ards marine farming unit in Argyll. A trip to prime halibut grounds off Iceland provided a few hundred young fish for experiments.

Early in 1986 two females



Wine checkout: Helen Tarry, believed to be Britain's only woman commercial wine maker, checking a 1990 white wine. She has worked at the Westbury Vineyard near Reading, owned by Bernard Theobald, for the past 13 years

Lifting of ivory trade ban opposed

ANY attempt to lift the international ban on ivory trading will be opposed by the government (John Young writes). Several African countries are seeking a resumption of trade, claiming that their elephant numbers are healthy and that selective culling would pose no threat.

David Trippier, the environment minister, said: "I am firmly committed to maintaining the ivory trade ban to ensure the survival and recovery of elephant populations."

The ban, imposed less than two years ago, is to be reconsidered at a meeting of the United Nations convention on international trade in endangered species in Tokyo in March. A convention report this week is expected to recommend limited relaxation.

South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia have said a resumption of trade would destroy the illegal market for poachers and provide revenue for conservation. It would give them an incentive to maintain their elephant populations and reduce the likelihood of the animals being shot as pests.

William Travers, chairman of the charity Elefriends, said that the argument had been tried and discredited. Before the ban, four elephants were slaughtered by poachers for every one killed legally.

There would always be an illegal trade, but it had been greatly reduced. In Kenya alone the number of elephants killed each year was down from 3,000 to about 50. Suggestions that ivory's origin could be identified by genetic fingerprinting were impractical.

Mr Travers has the support of Richard Leakey, director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, who said that the ban has been a success and that the bottom had dropped out of the ivory markets in the Far East.

So far no egg has grown up into a marketable sized fish, but Shetland's salmon farmers believe that halibut, a more meaty fish than salmon, could eventually be the answer to the over-production of salmon, particularly from Norway.

from the broodstock produced eggs and last year 25 females produced more than six million eggs in five months. The eggs were fertilised by mixing them with milk, the soft roe from the male fish.

So far no egg has grown up into a marketable sized fish, but Shetland's salmon farmers believe that halibut, a more meaty fish than salmon, could eventually be the answer to the over-production of salmon, particularly from Norway.

Waterstone's to cut prices of 40 books

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Waterstone's chain of book stores will today announce discounts on 40 titles in a direct challenge to its chief rival Dillons, which last week cut the price of 18 books. The move intensifies a price war that publishers fear may lead to the dismantling of the agreement that fixes the price of three quarters of the books sold in Britain.

The list drawn up by Tim Waterstone, who founded the firm nine years ago, includes all the titles on the Dillons list and extends reductions to gardening, cookery, reference works and "coffee table" titles. The emphasis is on best-selling books in the hope that once inside a store, buyers will be tempted to purchase less well-known titles. However Mr Waterstone shares the concern that publishers of lesser-known books may become victims of the price war.

Speaking from Boston yesterday where he was opening the first Waterstone's in the US, he said: "We can't let the playground bully get away with pushing us around without fighting back. It will be extremely unpleasant and the publishing industry will never be the same."

"We knew we would have to respond when Dillons announced discounts on the books which are very much our market. I just hope it doesn't have to get nasty, but I fear that it will."

Last week Pentos Books, the owner of Dillons, announced a 25 per cent cut on 22 titles. Four that are protected by the net book agreement were withdrawn when an injunction was taken out to protect

them from discounts. Terry Maher, the chairman of Pentos, is an implacable opponent of the agreement by which publishers and booksellers agree to the price of 75 per cent of British titles, with the blessing of the Office of Fair Trading.

The Pentos discount list, operating in all Dillons, Hatchards, Claude Gill and Athena bookshops in the group, concentrates on novels. Waterstone's is taking on Dillons, undercutting their discount on some books.

Roddy Doyle's *The Van*, short-listed for this year's Booker Prize, has a recommended retail price of £13.99; Dillons is offering it for £10.45 and Waterstone's for £9.99. David Lodge's new novel, *Paradise News*, is normally £14.99 but sells for £11.20 at Dillons and £10.99 at Waterstone's.

Waterstone's in Boston has moved immediately into price cutting. Books in the New York *Times* best-seller list have been discounted by 30 per cent and selected titles by 20 per cent. There is no retail price maintenance on books in Canada and the US.

The Publishers Association described the discount war as regrettable. Ian Taylor of the association said that even though there was no retail price maintenance in the US, only 1 per cent of books tended to be discounted.

"That might be true now," Mr Waterstone responded. "But it wasn't the case 10 years ago. It has taken this long for the American book market to settle down, and it will be the same in Britain."

Tractor detour saves puddle wildlife

By JOHN YOUNG

THE rare fairy shrimp has been saved from extinction on a farm in Hampshire by the building of a diversion around its home for the farmer's tractor.

The fairy shrimp, usually less than an inch long, takes its name from its delicate, ethereal appearance. In truth it is not really a shrimp at all but belongs to the species *Anostraca*. Shrimp or not, it likes to live in puddles, in this case the ruts and potholes of a track crossing the Noar Hill nature reserve at Selborne, which is managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Trust members were concerned to discover recently

that the tenant farmer who used the track had filled in the potholes with rubble. With his consent they dug out the rubble and built a new section of track to accommodate his tractor.

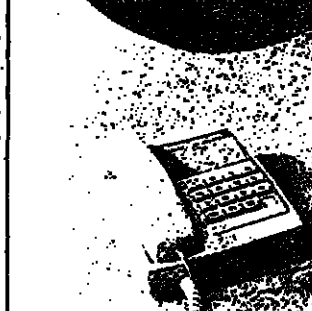
The fairy shrimp, a hardy and tenacious creature, has since returned and is apparently breeding successfully.

Clive Chatters, the trust's conservation officer, said yesterday that the fairy shrimp was an ancient organism, regarded as an endangered species by English Nature.

It lived in ponds and puddles for part of the year, but its eggs could survive in dry dust. Modern farming practices threatened its future.

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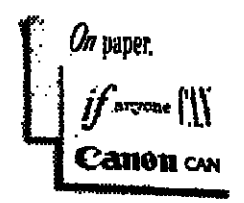
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Halibut swims into salmon market

By KERRY GILL

THE halibut may be uglier than the salmon, in recent years a mainstay of Shetland fish farming, but the flatfish that can survive for almost 50 years in the cold waters off Iceland could become a new source of income for farmers on the most northerly British Isles.

Salmon farmers are watching events at West Burrasfirth, on the west coast of the Shetland mainland, where 36 halibut are being reared. The farmers have had a lean time this year

because of falling salmon prices and Norwegian producers flooding the European market. Halibut fetch twice as much as salmon once the fish, which are difficult to rear, reach the fishermen.

Gibby Johnson, owner of one of Shetland's biggest farms, said: "It's some time away yet, but it will come." The Scottish Salmon Growers' Association said: "We haven't reached the stage where they will replace salmon." The halibut are

being fattened up in cages belonging to Shetland Islands' council, one of 17 companies and organisations in the new British Halibut Association.

The association, with the Sea Fish Industry Authority, is investigating the idea of farming the flatfish with trials at the Ards marine farming unit in Argyll. A trip to prime halibut grounds off Iceland provided a few hundred young fish for experiments.

Early in 1986 two females

HANDS UP THE WINNER OF THE 1991 BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP.



Driving a BMW M3, Will Hoy yesterday won the 1991 Esso RAC British Touring Car Championship at Silverstone. Congratulations to him and everyone at Team Securicor Vic Lee Motorsport.

Their BMW M3 beat a whole variety of other makes in the new 2 litre formula single class, to place itself in a class of its own.

Since it first roared off the grid in 1987, the M3 has dominated saloon car championships round the world, including class victories in Britain in 1989 and 1990, the outright Championship in 1988 – and it has already won the Manufacturers Championship this year.

Perhaps it's hardly surprising, because in racing form, its 4 cylinder 16 valve engine can develop over 270 bhp at nearly 8000 rpm.

Sadly, the roadgoing version of the M3 is no longer in production. But if you talk to your dealer now, you will find there are still just a few left.

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Profits
away
paper re



Ashtray
valued at
£10,000

Trained
ill info
about

Profits waste away for paper recycler

ADRIAN Oldman has watched the profitability of his waste paper recycling company dwindle this year, as Britain has lagged behind other European countries in the re-use of raw materials.

The price paid by paper mills for the recycled computer print-outs and copier paper in which he specialises has dropped by 40 per cent since February.

Without financial support from the local authority it is unlikely that the Paper Recycling Company, of Hackney, East London, would still be operating, and Mr Oldman looks with envy to counterparts abroad, where legislation and levies have led to a rapid growth in recycling.

The absence of large and stable markets for recycled materials is believed to be one of the main reasons for the low level of recycling in the United Kingdom. "Unless a market is created what

Britain is trailing its European neighbours in the recycling of raw materials, reports Nick Nuttall

paper we were getting £120 a tonne but it is now down to £85 to £90 a tonne," he said. "It's a sizeable drop with no signs of improvement."

A survey published today by Helmut Kaiser, environmental consultants in Germany, puts the level in 1990 of UK solid waste sorted, composted and recycled as better only than Greece in a European league table. About 20 million tonnes of such waste is produced in the UK, of which only about 5 per cent is recycled, compared with 10.5 per cent in The Netherlands and 13 per cent in Spain.

Pressures to increase the level of recycling in Britain are on the way, however. In November the European Commission is expected to publish a draft directive on packaging, calling on member states to recycle 60 per cent by the mid-1990s and 90 per cent by the year 2000. Local authorities have been asked for plans aimed at meeting a UK target of 25 per cent of household waste recycled by 2000.

The net effect should lead to more recycling, but also more glass, paper, compost and other materials on the market. A new report, *Considerations for a National Recycling Plan*, published by Save Waste and Prosper, a non-profit company working with Leeds city council, says that national estimates need to be made on the tonnages of materials that will arise from recycling and the likely industrial consumption. It calls for incentives to encourage the use of recycled materials, and provisions for stockpiling non-perishable wastes such as glass and plastics during times of low demand.

Leading article, page 15

EUROPE'S WASTE MOUNTAINS

Unrecycled solid waste (%)

Austria	86.5%
Spain	86.9%
Netherlands	88.8%
Sweden	90.1%
Portugal	91.2%
Switzerland	91.6%
Ireland	91.8%
Germany	91.9%
Denmark	92.1%
Finland	93.0%
Italy	93.3%
Belgium	94.2%
Norway	94.2%
Luxembourg	95.0%
France	95.2%
UK	95.2%
Greece	95.7%

Source: Helmut Kaiser Consultancy

we are doing is nothing more than glorified refuse collection." Mr Oldman said. "We need to encourage people to buy goods made from recycled materials so we can compete."

Virgin timber, considerable amounts of which Britain imports from Scandinavia and North America, has been about 15 per cent cheaper than the raw materials that Mr Oldman supplies. "For computer



Adrian Oldman: "Unless a market is created, what we are doing is glorified refuse collection"

Ashtray valued at £30,000

By JOHN SHAW

A SILVER gift bowl long used as an ashtray is expected to sell for £30,000 after the owner discovered it to be a 16th century Ottoman rarity.

The object was identified by Professor John Carswell, director of Sotheby's Islamic department, much to the surprise of the woman owner, who lives in the south of France. She had assumed it to be worthless.

The bowl will go for auction at Sotheby's in London on Thursday.

● Works of art belonging to Bill Paley, chairman of CBS Television, sold for \$1.625 million (£939,800), just over the high estimate, at Sotheby's in New York. A French Régence side table circa 1725, similar to one in the Wallace Collection, made the top price of \$445,500 (£257,514), over three times the high estimate.

● Sotheby's is to set up a branch in New Delhi, its first in India. The company hopes to hold regular sales in Bombay and the Indian capital.

Trainee GPs ill informed about Aids

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST doctors training to become general practitioners have gaps in their knowledge about Aids and are prejudiced against patients at high risk of the disease, according to a survey today.

Half of them would not accept intravenous drug abusers on to their list, only 12 per cent found it easy to discuss sex with homosexual patients, and only 37 per cent felt able to offer counselling about HIV infection and Aids.

The survey, in the *British Journal of General Practice*, says that the GP trainees' difficulties resemble those of doctors already in general practice. Many GPs are ill-prepared to play a part in curbing the spread of Aids, and their problems in counselling HIV-positive patients is particularly regrettable, the authors of the survey say.

More than 500 GP trainees in seven health regions in England and Scotland took part in the survey, funded by the health department.



New melody makers: Kelly Green (left) and Melissa Hope, both aged 11, donning their robes for a final rehearsal before their debut with 14 other girls in an all-girl choir at Salisbury Cathedral for evensong today, breaking a 900-year tradition of male choirs at cathedral schools

Mackay pledge on abducted children

By FRANCES GIBB LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has moved swiftly to dispel fears that the new Children Act, coming into force next week, will make it harder to secure the return of "tug of love" children abducted abroad.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern told family lawyers in London on Saturday that such fears were misplaced.

He said it had been suggested that the residents' orders, replacing custody orders under the act, might not be recognised by foreign courts under the Hague Convention on international child abduction. However, the convention described custody rights as including the right to determine a child's place of residence.

He said there was also concern about the act's emphasis on courts not making orders unless strictly necessary. However, under the Hague Convention, the existence of an order was not essential for enforcing people's rights.

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As Conservatives gather at Blackpool, a three-month Mori aggregate puts Labour ahead by one point

Long-term prospects signal Tory recovery

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR has retained its lead over the Conservatives in the third quarter of 1991, according to the latest Mori aggregate poll, covering 5,653 adults from July to September.

Mori found support for the parties at Labour 41 per cent, Conservatives 40 and Liberal Democrats 15. Scottish and Welsh nationalists were on 2 per cent, the Green party 1 and others 1.

Those figures repeated on a uniform swing at the general election would result in an evenly hung parliament in which both major parties would be a dozen or so seats short of an overall majority. But the longer-term trends indicate a Conservative recovery.

A year ago Labour had a lead of 12 points. Since then, the Mori aggregate polls, with their much bigger samples which tend to iron out more temporary swings in a volatile electorate, have shown the main parties virtually level. In the first quarter of this year, including the Gulf war, the Conservatives edged to a 1 point lead. In the second quarter Labour regained a 2 point lead, which has now fallen to a margin of just 1 point.

Support for the parties at the last general election was Conservatives 43 per cent, Labour 32 and SDP/Liberal Alliance 23.

None of the polling for the

Percentage change in voting trends since second quarter 1991

	2 Qtr	Now	Ch	2 Qtr	Now	Ch	2 Qtr	Now	Ch
All (100%)	39	40	+1	37	40	+3	41	40	-1
Lab	41	41	0	43	42	-1	39	40	+1
L/Dem	15	15	0	16	14	-2	18	14	-4
C lead	-2	-1	+1	-6	-2	+4	-2	0	+2
ABC1 (42%)	52	52	0	53	52	-1	52	52	0
Lab	53	53	0	54	52	-2	50	50	0
L/Dem	18	17	-1	17	15	-2	19	15	-4
C lead	-28	-28	0	-37	-37	0	-31	-35	+4
18-24 (15%)	34	34	0	35	35	0	35	34	-1
Lab	47	47	0	44	42	-2	40	40	0
L/Dem	11	12	+1	14	15	+1	15	15	0
C lead	-13	-13	0	-6	-4	+2	0	0	0
55+ (34%)	42	43	+1	42	43	+1	42	43	+1
Lab	39	39	0	39	39	0	39	39	0
L/Dem	17	15	-2	17	15	-2	15	15	0
C lead	+13	+14	+1	+21	+21	0	+18	+17	+1
North (36%)	29	31	+2	29	30	+1	29	30	+1
Lab	53	53	0	54	52	-2	50	50	0
L/Dem	12	10	-2	14	14	0	15	15	0
C lead	-24	-22	+2	-1	-1	0	-18	-17	+1
Owner Occ (64%)	46	47	+1	46	47	+1	46	47	+1
Lab	34	33	-1	34	33	-1	33	33	0
L/Dem	17	17	0	17	16	-1	16	16	0
C lead	+12	+14	+2	+44	+42	+2	-11	-4	+7
Council Ten (24%)	20	21	+1	20	21	+1	20	21	+1
Lab	54	53	-1	54	53	-1	54	53	-1
L/Dem	11	10	-1	11	10	-1	11	10	-1
C lead	-44	-42	+2	-44	-42	+2	-44	-42	+2
Private Ten (8%)	38	37	-1	38	37	-1	38	37	-1
Lab	54	53	-1	54	53	-1	54	53	-1
L/Dem	16	16	0	16	16	0	16	16	0
C lead	-11	-4	+7	-11	-4	+7	-11	-4	+7

latest Mori aggregate was carried out in the past week and so does not allow for the possible effect of the successful Labour conference. Two smaller polls conducted since Neil Kinnock's keynote speech have shown Labour leads of 2 and 7 points.

The Mori figures indicate that John Major was wise not to call a November

election, having failed to build a sufficient lead to allow for the normal slight swing away from the government of the day during an election campaign. But they do confirm private Conservative polling reported to put the party ahead in marginal seats.

The Mori sample included 548 interviews in marginal seats and measured support there at Labour 42, Conservatives 40, Liberal Democrats 12 and others 6. That means that Labour has secured a swing of only 3.5 points in the marginal seats, compared with the overall national swing of 6 points in its favour. If the pattern in the marginals were repeated in a general election, the Conservatives would have an overall majority of 19 seats.

The Conservatives have gained 3 percentage points among male voters while losing 1 point to Labour. As the election approaches, the gender gap, which has often benefited the Conservatives, seems to be disappearing.

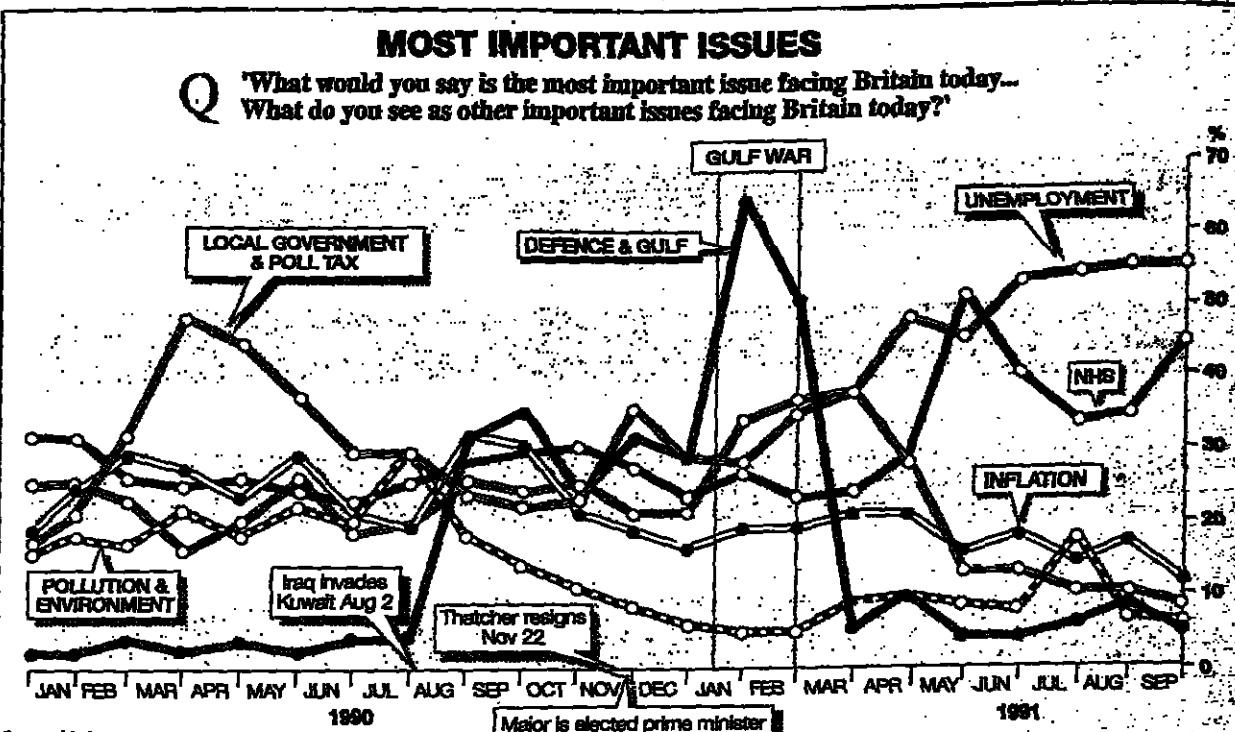
At the 1979 election the Conservative lead among women was 9 points more than among men and in 1983 it was 8 points. But at the last election the 11-point Conservative victory margin was the same among male and female voters. Over the past three quarters the gender gap in the Conservatives' favour has closed to only 2

points. This may reflect Labour's success in pushing to the top of the agenda issues of greater concern to women, such as the health service and law and order, where Labour receives a better rating from the public. Women voters, according to the poll evidence, are less concerned with inflation and management of the economy, issues where the Tories do best.

There is a significant age gap in Labour's support. New voters, the 18 to 24-year-olds who represent 15 per cent of the electorate, give Labour a 13 point lead. The Conservatives have a 4 point lead among the over-55s, an age gap of 17 per cent, the same as at the last election. The problem for Labour is that the over-55s are more than twice as numerous, representing 34 per cent of the electorate. And while more than 80 per cent of the over-55s turned out last polling day, only 50 per cent of young voters did.

The large Mori sample included 291 people who were unemployed when they were questioned. Of those, 21 per cent were intending to vote Conservative, 62 per cent Labour and 11 per cent Liberal Democrat. But if the unemployed sample (which tends to include a higher proportion of young and working class respondents) is weighted to reflect the population at large, the figures are Conservatives 32, Labour 52 and Liberal Democrats 11.

None the less, unemployment, as the accompanying graphic shows, was the top issue among respondents, named as a concern in September by 54 per cent. The health service, at second place, is climbing again to Labour's advantage. But although ministers are laying great stress on the government's achievement in bringing down the inflation rate from its 10.5 per cent



First words of many: an adjustment is made to the platform slogan in the Tory conference hall at Blackpool

peak to 4.7, inflation has never been rated as a serious concern by more than 30 per cent over the past year.

In terms of leadership image Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, continued to enjoy the best

rating over the past month. With 52 per cent satisfied with the way he does his job and 22 per cent dissatisfied, he has a net rating of plus 30. Mr Major (57 per cent satisfied, 32 per cent dissatisfied) scores plus 25. But Neil

Kinnock continues to lag well behind his party in popularity: 33 per cent satisfied and 53 per cent dissatisfied, a net rating of minus 20.

The most heartening statistics for the Conservatives

among Mori's findings are those measuring economic optimism. In September a year ago 46 per cent more believed the economy would get worse over the next year than those who believed it would improve, a net index figure of minus 46. At the start of the latest quarter the figure was still minus 7. But in August it moved to plus 7, and is now plus 13, despite the lack of hard evidence to back up ministerial assertions that the economy is beginning to come out of recession.

Mori interviewed 5,653 adults, aged 18 and over, face to face at home throughout Great Britain. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.

Copyright Mori/Times Newspapers

The wayward effect of conferences

THE seven-point Labour lead measured by a NOP poll for *The Independent on Sunday* is being put down to the razzmatazz of Labour's conference and Neil Kinnock's widely praised keynote speech.

There has been some puzzlement that the Liberal Democrats have not benefited from their conference, which was reckoned to be

successful and disciplined. Can good conferences, however, be relied upon to boost party fortunes? The evidence suggests not.

In 1983 Labour went up ten points after the conference at which Michael Foot gave way to Neil Kinnock, but in 1984 the conference had virtually no effect. In 1985, Neil Kinnock won plaudits for his attack

on the Liverpool Militants and Labour went up three points, but the Tories gained five points after their not especially successful conference.

In 1986 Tory ministers set out a series of proposals designed to kick-start the recovery that led to the 1987 election success. Although the Tories rose by four points, so did Labour after

its conference. The 1987 and 1988 conferences had a negligible effect on the poll ratings of the two major parties. In 1989 Labour put on five points and the Tories were unchanged.

After the 1990 conferences, with Mrs Thatcher at the height of her unpopularity over the poll tax, the Tories went down five and Labour went up four.

Young Tories want end to mortgage tax relief

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

MORTGAGE interest tax relief, a key point in the government's drive for a home-owning democracy, comes under fire from the Young Conservatives today.

In a housing charter published on the eve of the Conservative party conference, the Young Conservatives add their support to recent findings of the Duke of Edinburgh's enquiry into housing, which advocated the abolition of such relief. That recommendation received no support from the government.

The charter describes the tax relief as an expensive subsidy for better-off homeowners, which stifles the rented market and does little to help the first-time buyer because the subsidy is capitalised into house prices. "It should be abolished, with the revenue used to reduce the basic rate of income tax."

The Young Conservatives have launched the charter to build on the success of the home ownership drive in the 1980s with new policies for the 1990s. The document says

that increasingly restrictive local planning policies threaten the home ownership dreams of many - particularly the young - by pricing them out of the market or failing to provide the homes required. The charter adds: "The decline of the private rented sector excludes many from the most appropriate tenure for young, mobile and single people."

It urges the environment secretary to use his planning powers to ensure that restrictions on housebuilding are liberalised, so that new housing can relieve shortages.

In calling for the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief, the charter seeks to create a "level playing field" for the different forms of tenure, in order to reverse the decline of the private rented sector. All residential property, whether owner-occupied or rented, should be exempted from capital gains tax.

Referring to the social aims of the prime minister, the charter says that the present housing divisions threaten the emergence of a classless society.

Attacks on mortgage tax relief ignore the real causes of house price inflation and will not help to improve housing, the mortgage lender House- hold Mortgage Corporation claims. Its marketing director, Brian Whitfield, says in its quarterly review: "The impact of tax relief on mortgages has steadily declined over the past decade but house prices have still endured a roller-coaster ride. Tax relief is clearly not a significant factor in house price inflation. More important are interest rates and incomes, plus the ever-present mismatch of demand for homes and its supply."

Irish scandals prompt slump in polls

WHEN is a friend not a friend? What are the limits of guilt by association? Should a prime minister resign when businessmen associated with him are believed to have used public bodies to exploit the tax payer?

Those questions are at the heart of a series of financial scandals that have led the Irish public to question the relationship between politics and business and to doubt the probity of Charles Haughey's coalition government.

An opinion poll yesterday confirms that the Mr Haughey is in trouble and shows that there is a significant swing away from the governing Fianna Fail party whose rating has dropped 11 per cent since March.

The government is faced by four damaging scandals involving Telecom Eireann; Greencore, the recently privatised Irish Sugar Company; Celtic Helicopters, partly owned by Mr Haughey's second son Cian; and Mr Haughey's 300-acre Kinsealy estate in north Dublin.

According to opposition politicians the installation by

Doubts over the honesty of Charles Haughey are refusing to go away, reports Jamie Dettmer



Haughey: he has rejected "misleading statements"

owned Aer Lingus, from National City Brokers, a firm partly owned by Dermot Desmond, until recently a Haughey family friend.

The Greencore affair also involves friends of Mr Haughey. Before it was privatised the Irish Sugar Company lent IRE1 million to its senior executives to buy a 49 per cent stake in Sugar Distributors, of which it owned 51 per cent. A year later, it bought the 49 per cent from the executives, handing them a IRE7 million profit.

That apparently went un-

detected or unquestioned by the departments of finance and agriculture, by the brokers NCB, or by Bernie Cahill, chairman of Irish Sugar, a friend of Mr Haughey and chairman of Aer Lingus. Telecom also provides an example of the state paying over the odds for an asset, in this case a building in the fashionable Dublin suburb of Ballsbridge.

The site was bought for IRE4.5 million by United Property Holdings, the property arm of NCB in which Michael Smurfit, chairman of Telecom, held a 10 per cent stake. It was sold on to Telecom two years later for IRE9.4 million.

Telecom made no independent valuation of the site and failed to make any costs comparisons with other sites. Dr Smurfit, another "business friend" of Mr Haughey, resigned as chairman of Telecom last week. He was followed by Dermot Desmond, who resigned as chairman of Aer Rianta, the state airport authority. With friends like that, who needs enemies?

Activists storm mink farm

A family of six was attacked when animal rights activists stormed their home on a mink farm near Halifax, North Yorkshire.

Joseph Egretsberger, aged 45, was working at the Swales Moor mink farm, Boothtown, on Saturday when he was confronted by a 200-strong crowd. He said they kicked him to the ground and pushing a tractor over his leg, breaking it.

Relative came to his aid and Mr Egretsberger's son Daniel, aged 21, was also beaten and kicked to the ground. Police arrived as the crowd was trying to enter the mink enclosure. Forty-three people were questioned by police.

Train crashes

Seven people were hurt at Lime Street station, Liverpool, on Saturday when a train's brakes failed and it crashed into a platform, destroying the cab and damaging buildings. Passengers had been taken off after the driver had earlier reported brake trouble.

Yacht for sale

A motor yacht built in 1938 for Sir Malcolm Campbell, the motor and speedboat record-breaker, has gone on sale for £550,000 at Falmouth, Cornwall, after a plan to turn it into a floating radio station was abandoned.

On the run

Fourteen inmates from high-security Full Sutton jail near York completed half-marathons yesterday in aid of children with learning difficulties.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bonds draw are: £100,000, bond number 521, 37524; winner comes from Cornwall (value of holding, £1,000); £50,000, 30AN 837369, London borough of Barnet (£3,181); £25,000, 1KN 926987, West Sussex (£23).

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Army Officer

American foreign ministers draw blank in Port-au-Prince talks



Death row: a man taking an empty coffin towards the centre of Port-au-Prince yesterday

Haitian generals refuse to reinstate elected president

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE impasse in Haiti deepened at the weekend when a delegation from the Organisation of American States failed to persuade the country's military leaders to reinstate Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically-elected president they overthrew last Monday.

One senior Western diplomat acknowledged that little progress had been made during two days of non-stop meetings at Port-au-Prince airport. The delegation of seven foreign ministers plus Bernard Aronson, American assistant secretary of state, may yet return to Haiti for further negotiations, but Carlos Huralde, the Bolivian foreign minister, pointedly drew reporters' attention to last week's OAS resolution authorising "other measures" if Father Aristide was not reinstated voluntarily.

General Raoul Cedras, the army's commander in chief, presented the delegation with a list of constitutional violations allegedly committed by Father Aristide during his seven months in power. He

proposed that the chief justice of the Haitian Supreme Court form an interim administration that would organise new elections within 90 days.

That proposal did not impress the OAS delegation. "That may be Cedras's position but it is certainly not the view of the OAS," one member said. Señor Huralde said the delegation was adhering strictly to its mandate, which demanded the return of the first democratically elected president in Haiti's 187-year history and offered "very little leeway" for compromise.

The Haitian army has begun a public relations offensive to justify its coup. At a press conference, General Cedras accused Father Aristide of inciting mob violence, and compared his rule to that of the Duvaliers' dictatorship. He called the coup a "correction of the democratic process", insisting that he had not made himself head of state.

Some of Fr Aristide's political supporters, including René Preval, the prime minister, came out of hiding to

address the OAS delegation, which also met a number of prominent Haitian politicians and business leaders who opposed his return in spite of his massive support among the Haitian masses. "Obviously this is a very complex, sensitive problem," Señor Huralde said.

The charges against Fr Aristide include the intimidation and bypassing of parliament, failure to condemn the assassination of opponents and training a personal militia. Western diplomats say the charges are not entirely without foundation, but are far outweighed by his achievements. Three days before the coup, however, Fr Aristide allegedly condoned the "necklacing" of those who opposed the peoples' will, telling a meeting in one of Port-au-Prince's poorest areas that a burning tyre around the neck was a "beautiful device".

With most Haitians still enraged by Fr Aristide's overthrow, mass at St Jean Bosco, the Catholic church where he first preached his fiery liberation theology to oppressed

Haitians, was cancelled yesterday out of fear that it would lead to further violence. Elsewhere in this predominantly Catholic city attendance at mass was only a fraction of normal.

One week after the coup, the ban on public meetings continues. All but one government-controlled radio station have now been shut down. There is relative calm in the city during the day but gunfire can still be heard at night. The OAS delegation refused to stay in Port-au-Prince on Friday night, flying instead to Kingston, Jamaica, and returning on Saturday. The banks have been shut for a week and many Haitians, especially outside the capital, are running out of money.

General Cedras said 20 soldiers had died during last week's fighting, but there is still no reliable figure for the number of civilian casualties. The capital's only public hospital was reporting 372 dead or wounded at the start of the weekend. Most local reports suggest that at least 200 people died.

WELLINGTON NOTEBOOK

Even the All Blacks may not lift gloom

It may be something to do with the severity of the southern winter, which at one stage forced South Island children to ice-skate to school along the streets and froze the fleeces of sheep to the snow on the ground, but New Zealand is undergoing a bout of melancholia.

The depression stems mainly from economic stagnation, severe economic restructuring and the government's hatchet-attack on the welfare state. But the gloom became all-pervading when All Black No. 8 and vice-captain Mike Brewer was left out of the World Cup rugby squad because of injury.

After 10 years of slow or negative growth, New Zealanders realise that the economy is in recession, but have not got round to accepting that, as a result, the good times are over. Accordingly there has been continuing outrage over the National government's moves to slash the welfare state and balance the budget. By first cutting benefits, then targeting them to those in need and then forcing the better off to pay for doctors'

visits, prescriptions, their initial hospital costs and much of their children's tertiary education, the government has attracted an avalanche of dissent.

Although elected less than a year ago in a landslide, the National party won only 22 per cent support in the latest opinion poll, the lowest ever recorded for a governing party.

Each day brings new hardship stories and government embarrassment. A widow tells a parliamentary committee she sometimes lives on cabbage for days as she has barely £2 a week for all expenses beyond food and rent. Unemployment is running at 10 per cent, unprecedented for New Zealand, and in a small town north of Wellington, 200 people apply for a car cleaning job, with some applicants bursting into tears when they are rejected. But the government argues that economic recovery is on the way, with inflation down to 2.8 per cent and mortgage rates to around 11 per cent.

Richard Long

A wedding made in Hollywood for Elizabeth Taylor

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

DIVORCED, ditto, died, divorced, ditto, ditto, ditto, place your bets... Elizabeth Taylor VIII, the movie, with an estimated budget of \$1.5 million (£860,000), took place yesterday as the film star married for the eighth time at pop singer Michael Jackson's luxurious ranch in Los Olivos, California.

Her new husband is Larry Fortensky, aged 39, a construction worker who is facing two charges of drunk driving. Miss Taylor, 20 years his senior, is understood to have proposed over a hamburger.

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Judge in sex claim

Washington — A former assistant to Judge Clarence Thomas, the conservative nominee to the US Supreme Court, has told the Senate committee she was sexually harassed by him several years ago, according to an interview with National Public Radio.

An FBI investigation "determined that the allegation was unfounded", the White House told the NPR. Judge Thomas has denied indulging in sexual harassment.

Anita Hill, a law professor, said the judge invited her out several times in the early 1980s. When she declined, he described pornographic film scenes to her, she said. (AP)

Dhaka aid plea

Dhaka — The Bangladesh government appealed to international charities for help in fighting famine and an epidemic in the flood-ravaged northern region. Repeated floods during the monsoon have washed away food and shelter in the poverty-stricken area.

Singer killed

Moscow — A popular Soviet singer, Igor Talkov, was shot dead while giving a concert in St Petersburg. An unknown assailant shot Talkov, aged 35, in the heart at point-blank range in the city's sports stadium. The singer had a large following, particularly among teenagers. (Reuters)

Poaching fall

Nairobi — Elephant numbers in Kenya's Tsavo park, 200 miles southeast of Nairobi, are no longer falling due to poaching, an EC-funded survey showed. (Reuters)



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German refuge turns hostile

POLITICAL leaders seeking a quick way to stamp out growing support for the extreme right appeared powerless at the weekend as violent attacks on foreigners continued throughout Germany. The attacks were widespread and varied.

In the west there was a symbolic attack on democracy, as the Rhineland grave of Konrad Adenauer, the first chancellor of the former West Germany, was daubed with a swastika. In the east stone stars, broken from the war graves of Russian soldiers, were flung through the windows of a hostel. Windows in a Soviet married quarters were also smashed.

Cars and property belonging to foreigners all seemed to be at risk. Attacks were not confined to asylum seekers from Third World or East European countries. Two Italians were beaten up in Hesse and a Portuguese restaurant in Hamburg was set alight. Swastikas and right-wing propaganda were found after several attacks.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, meeting with political allies during a two-day closed session at Banz in Bavaria, agreed to try to blame the violence on the Free Democrats (FDP), ju-

Germany is struggling to contain the number of refugees and the growth of the far right, Ian Murray writes

nior partners in the government coalition, and on the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). The meeting of leading Christian Democrats (CDU) and members of the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union (CSU), agreed that the huge number of unjustified asylum seekers was provoking violence and that economic refugees could be kept out only by changing the constitution. Both the FDP and SPD refuse to back any amendment, and without their

support it will be impossible to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority.

However, the CDU and CSU see a political advantage in confronting the Bundestag over the issue as it will make it clear who is blocking the amendment. More than 70 per cent of the population supports the change according to opinion polls. The chancellor attacked his political rivals over the issue last week in a speech to mark German unification, and the tactic

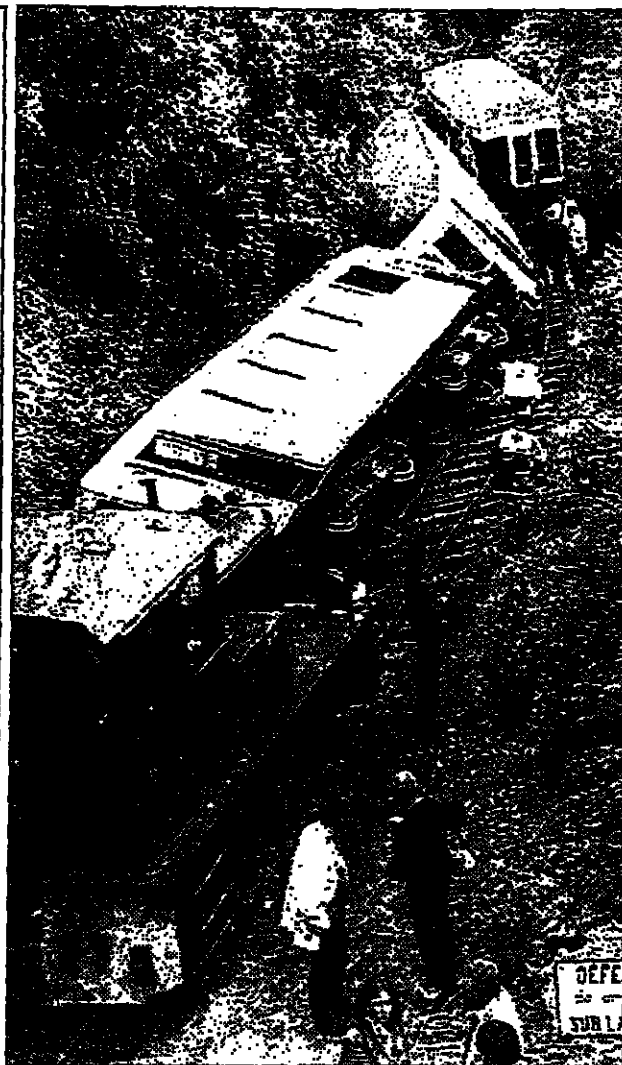
already appears to be paying off. The SPD lost heavily in last week's state elections in Bremen. Herr Kohl's CDU picked up most of that support but an extreme right-wing group also won a handful of seats. A poll this weekend showed that the CDU/CSU had overtaken the SPD for the first time this year.

Björn Engholm, the SPD leader, however, is determined not to give way. He said that any change in the law would destroy Germany's reputation as a place of refuge and, at the same time, encourage the far right. In practice, Herr Kohl and his allies will have to work with the SPD and FDP in tackling the problem.

One move that already has approval is to send back all asylum seekers to any democratic country they pass through on their way to Germany. This could reduce the numbers by up to a half. Another idea, which the chancellor supports, is for the European Community to share the number of asylum seekers between member states. At present Germany is accommodating nearly half of those arriving in Europe and almost two-thirds of all those reaching the EC.

Year	Asylum seekers	Ethnic Germans	East Germans	Total
1984	35,278	36,489	38,655	110,382
1985	73,832	38,968	28,346	139,146
1986	99,650	42,788	26,191	168,629
1987	57,379	78,523	18,961	154,863
1988	103,076	202,678	35,832	341,586
1989	121,318	377,055	343,854	842,227
1990	193,063	397,075	238,384	828,522
1991	168,785	(260,000)	(50,000)	(618,785)
Total	853,382	1,173,541	732,223	2,559,146
		(1,423,541)	(614,723)	(2,937,264)

Figures in brackets are estimates of ongoing trend 1991 figures up to September



Off the rails: rescuers work on the wreckage of a steam train that crashed after apparent brake failure near Liège, Belgium, killing seven people

Katyn veteran tells of secret police murders

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SOVIET army prosecutors have discovered chilling new evidence of the murder by Stalin's secret police of 15,000 Polish officers in April 1940, and say they now have enough proof to prosecute two former NKVD officers who carried out the murders.

Vladimir Tokaryev, now aged 89, has given interrogators a grisly account of his role in the murder of about 6,000 Polish officers captured by Soviet forces in September 1939. In a taped interview brought back from Moscow by Lord Bethell, a Conservative MEP, he described how executioners sent on the direct orders of the Communist party's politburo shot the Poles, one by one, in a soundproof prison cell, at the rate of 250 a night for a month.

One group of Poles was taken from their camp to a prison in Kalinin, north of Moscow, where three executioners arrived with a caseful of German revolvers, considered more efficient than Soviet weapons. Mr Tokaryev's account, published yesterday in the Observer said: "I was there the first night they did the shooting. Blokhin [one of the officers sent from Moscow] was the main killer, with about 30 others, mainly NKVD drivers and guards... I remember Blokhin saying: 'Come on, let's go.' And then he put on his special uniform for the job: brown leather hat, brown leather apron, long brown leather gloves reaching above the elbows. They were his terrible trade marks. I realised that I was face to face with a true executioner."

"They took the Poles along the corridor, one by one, turned left and took them into the Red Corner, the rest room for prison staff. Each man was asked his surname, first name and date of birth - just to identify him. Then he was taken to the room next door, which was soundproofed, and shot in the back of the head."

Mr Tokaryev went on to say that nothing was read to them, no decision of any court or special commission. The executions were all carried out under cover of darkness, and the bodies taken out by a back door, loaded into covered lorries and taken to a burial ditch already dug by an excavator. The executioners were given a supply of vodka after each night's shootings.

"When it was all over, the three men from Moscow organised a big banquet to celebrate. They kept pestering me, insisting I should attend. But I refused," Mr Tokaryev told his interrogators.

told his interrogators. The operation was organised by Fyodor Soprunenko, now aged 83, who signed many of the orders transferring Poles to the NKVD for mass execution. Lord Bethell said he has refused to admit his role as interrogator, maintaining he does not remember details, and proving evasive when confronted with proof. The Soviet investigation began last November, after Moscow's public admission before President Gorbachev went to Warsaw, that it was the Soviet Union which murdered the officers, and not the Nazi invaders as Moscow insisted for 50 years after a mass grave was discovered at Katyn.

The investigators have questioned 100 people involved in the murders, and have *prima facie* evidence against Mr Soprunenko and Mr Tokaryev, but cannot prosecute them because, under a statute of limitations, murder charges cannot be pressed after 15 years. The Russian Federation is willing to change the law to allow prosecution of Stalin-era crimes, like Nazi atrocities.



But hardliners in the army and the KGB have been trying to block the investigation.

Lord Bethell, who visited the military prosecutor two weeks ago, said yesterday he would be pressing the Soviet authorities to bring charges. Stalin's murder of the Poles was passed over by Britain during the war and the subsequent Nuremberg trials in order not to antagonise the Soviet Union.

The Polish officers were captured after Poland was invaded simultaneously by Soviet and German forces. They were held in several camps until 1940, when a secret politburo decision, personally signed by Stalin, ordered them to be shot. It was sent to the head of the NKVD, which carried out the executions in three areas: Katyn in western Russia, Starobelsk in Ukraine, and Ostashkov. The list of names was drawn up and signed by Mr Soprunenko.

Unpopular Cresson runs out of time

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

TRAMPLING on Edith Cresson's political and private person is becoming something of a blood sport in France, and it says much about the prime minister's inner toughness that she soldiers on regardless. But as her standing in opinion polls sinks ever lower - only one in five voters now thinks she is up to the job - and Socialist party colleagues joke bleakly of going down with the Titanic, there is serious doubt about Mme Cresson's ability to stay the course much beyond next spring.

To the multitude of angry farmers who marched through Paris a week ago, she was definitely fair game, even if the messages of some placards, touching indelicately upon her relations with President Mitterrand, resist translation for a family newspaper. For most of the demonstrators, the elegant Mme Cresson - a former minister of agriculture and not much loved in the countryside even then - is the epitome of *la gauche caviar*, knowing little of the real France beyond Paris, and caring even less.

If that is a harsh judgment, she can find little relief in a new survey purporting to measure the respect and affection in which the French hold their most prominent personalities which relegates her to fifth and last place. The comparative popularity of Michel Rocard, her immediate predecessor, and Jacques Delors, whom many expect to replace her, must have stung.

The table showed that President Mitterrand, famously sensitive to popular judgment and now faring almost as badly as his prime minister, has lost a little ground. In the circumstances, the murmurs from his advisers about Mme Cresson's likely demise cannot be discounted.

If leaks to the French press are to be believed, next March could be a date for her departure: awkward enough

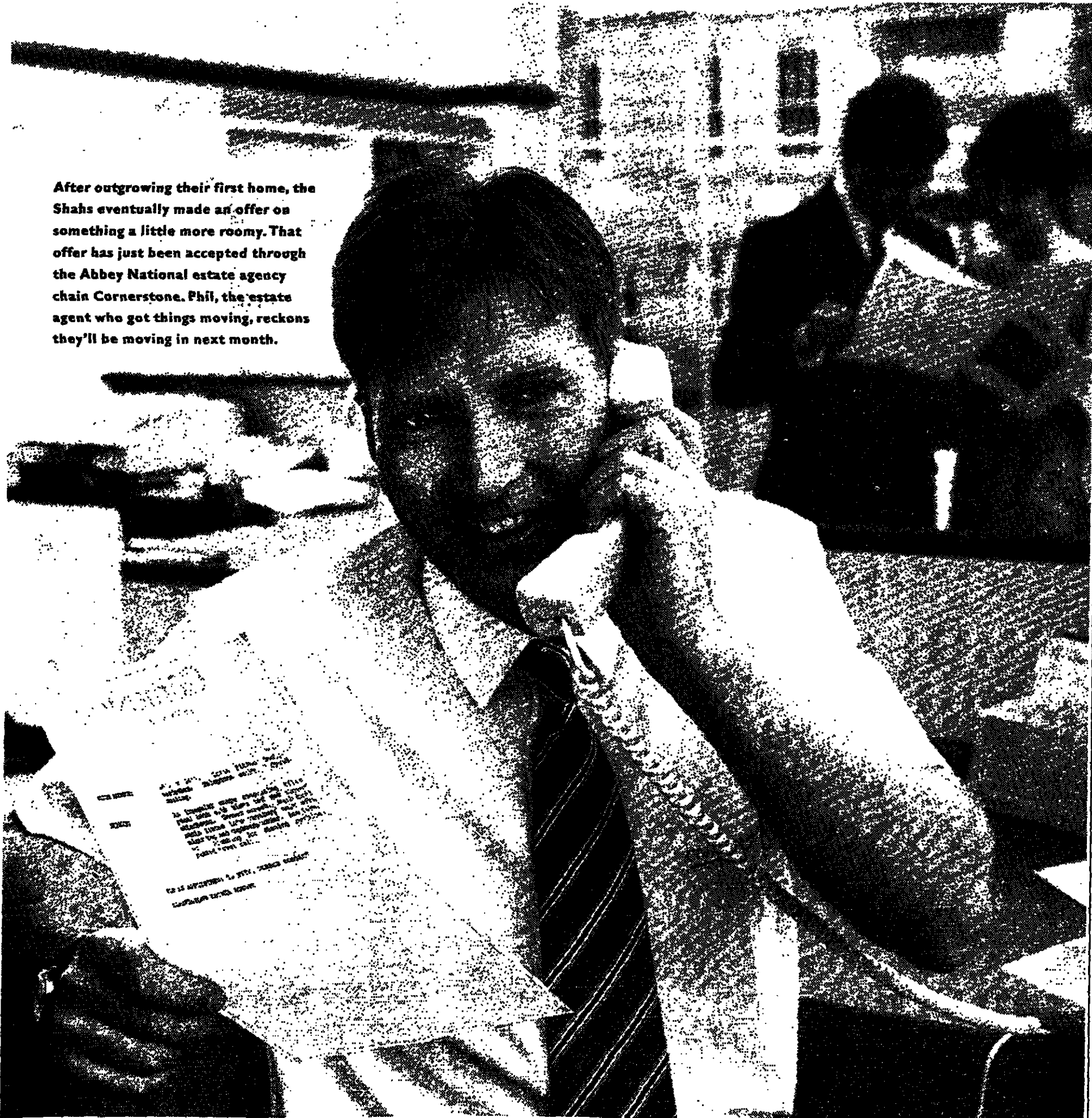


Cresson: soldiering on regardless of polls

grindingly technical address with which she dismayed admirers on first taking office. Of course, if there was any justice in French politics, Mitterrand would be alongside Mme Cresson in the dock today, not least because it was he who foisted her upon the country four months ago, knowing better than most her strengths and limitations. Whether he can bring himself to jettison his protégée after so short a period remains to be seen, but nobody would accuse him of being unwilling to reach for the axe when the moment demands it, as M Rocard can testify.

It's theirs

After outgrowing their first home, the Shahs eventually made an offer on something a little more roomy. That offer has just been accepted through the Abbey National estate agency chain Cornerstone. Phil, the estate agent who got things moving, reckons they'll be moving in next month.



ABBAY NATIONAL

The habit of a lifetime

Democratic runners line up in the US

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

BY THE end of this month, George Bush is likely to see the line-up of serious Democratic challengers in next year's US presidential elections, or those who have raised substantially more than the minimum \$5,000 required by law to launch a formal campaign. Still teasing are the Rev Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights activist, and Jerry Brown, a former but unexciting governor of California.

Mr Jackson is playing a familiar trick of refusing to say exactly what his plans are. But Cable News Network television executives cannot wait much longer for him to decide between the campaign podium and a job as host on one of their weekly talk-show programmes. Mr Jackson has failed twice to secure his party's nomination to run for the White House. Apart from

considering his pride, which rarely shows signs of damage, he is under significant pressure from moderate Democrats to sit out this race. Mr Brown, meanwhile, suffers from what is politely known as a lack of "name-recognition", or a greyness of delivery that sets him down the list alongside Paul Tsongas, a former Massachusetts senator, whose campaign already has started to fizzle.

Among those advising Mr Jackson to stay away are Douglas Wilder, his chief rival, who was elected the country's first black state governor two years ago. The Virginia politician met Mr Jackson last month to try to persuade him that his Baptist-inspired preaching style and liberal civil-rights messages could drive away rather than win converts to the Democratic party. The collective nervousness about Mr Jackson's potential impact on the Democratic cause comes as Mr Wilder and others are trying to play down the party's traditional links to higher taxes and special interest groups, including minorities.

The shift away from liberalism is likely to count against candidate Tom Harkin, a US senator from Iowa, who woos farmers and trade unions with a dated but often effective populist battle cry of justice for the little person and a dismissal of Mr Bush as an East Coast rich boy who made good on wits and wealth.

Despite a high public approval rating, Mr Bush has begun to show signs that he, too, thinks the 1992 presidential campaign is under way. Several days ago, he hastily called a news conference at the White House to stress that he really does care about domestic issues despite a lingering image as far more interested in foreign affairs. Over the weekend, his sources also let slip that the first of a dozen official fund-raisers in coming weeks for the George Bush-Dan Quayle re-election campaign would take place in Houston, Texas, on 30 October, even though a formal announcement is not predicted until at least January.

The small field of opponents grew to the expected Big Five last week with the addition of Bill Clinton, a boyish-faced governor of Arkansas. An eloquent orator, Mr Clinton began his national political career as America's youngest governor and today is regarded as a possible front-runner in Democrats' efforts to appeal to a sense of economic downward drift among the middle class. Ahead of him by three days with a similar refrain of "generational renewal" was Bob Kerrey, a junior senator from Nebraska.

Peacenik jailed in Israel

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

AN ISRAELI court in Ramla yesterday sentenced a veteran Jewish peace campaigner to 18 months in prison after he admitted meeting Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and vowed that he would do so again.

The stiff sentence was imposed on Abie Nathan, aged 64, a former RAF fighter pilot and advocate of direct talks between Israel and the PLO. It was seen as a warning to other Israeli and Palestinian public figures that the mainstream guerrilla organisation can never be rehabilitated or legitimised in the eyes of the Israeli authorities.

Nathan's exploits first attracted international attention when he piloted a plane to Egypt in 1966 on a solo peace flight. This summer he fasted for 40 days in protest at the ban on contact with the PLO.



Nathan: leaving the court in Ramla yesterday

India's underdogs learn to fight back

Harijans, already at the centre of a dispute over government jobs, are demanding that even their name is changed, Christopher Thomas writes

India's 200 million outcasts are winning a fight not to be called Harijans — children of God — the well-meaning name bestowed on them by Mahatma Gandhi. For half a century they have quietly hated the word.

The big central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh is the latest to ban its use in all official business, and many newspapers are also dropping it. For some high-caste Hindus this is another distressing example of pandering to the increasingly restive lower castes. Some say it is an affront to Gandhi's generous gesture.

Gandhi introduced the word Harijan as an alternative to "untouchable", which outcasts found offensive. But many felt the new word was just as degrading as the old one, since Harijan traditionally described the children of temple prostitutes.

The outcasts want to be called Dalits, which means "the oppressed". The word has been used for years to describe militant Harijans, although the broader meaning is gaining currency.

Kanshi Ram, the leading campaigner for the rights of outcasts, said the term Harijan described the children of temple dancing girls known as dev dasis (servants of God) and was regarded by Dalits as derogatory. "Brah-

minism creates many evils and the dev dasis are one of them," he added. "Brahmin priests used to ask for young girls to be brought to the temple for sex, dancing and general service in the temple. There are still thousands of these girls in the Bombay and Poona region."

Mr Ram, who heads a party called the Bahujan Samaj with one MP, uses the word "bahujan", meaning majority, to describe Dalits, tribals and the backward castes, accounting for 640 million people, three-quarters of the population.

Another caste controversy has been caused by a government announcement that 25 per cent of public sector jobs will be reserved for backward castes, and 10 per cent for poorer sections of upper castes. This is in addition to 27 per cent already reserved — in theory at least — for Dalits and tribals, leaving only 38 per cent for the remaining upper castes.

The move was announced with an eye to 19 parliamentary by-elections expected to be held next month. Upper-caste students, led by Rajeev Goswami, a Brahmin who set fire to himself a year ago in protest against job quotas, are campaigning against the proposals.

West Bank leaders to see Baker

From REUTERS IN AMMAN

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, will meet Palestinian leaders from the West Bank this week to offer new assurances on proposed peace talks with Israel, according to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Two of the Palestinians, Hanaan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini, have been waiting in London for an invitation to Washington to discuss obstacles to the peace conference, scheduled for this month. Yesterday Yasser Abed-Rabbo, of the PLO executive, said: "There will be a meeting this week in Washington between Baker and the Palestinian delegation."

Mr Abed-Rabbo said that a letter of assurances would be discussed and that the Americans had promised to include some new elements. He added that the PLO would not budge from the demand that its delegation should include a Palestinian from Jerusalem.

Israel refuses to deal with Palestinians from East Jerusalem, annexed after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, because it fears their presence could call into question the status of the city, which Palestinians see as the future capital.



Modlar: a happy participant in the Frog and Toad Mud Olympics in Hong Kong laughing after throwing himself into the annual event, organised by a brewery

New York back in the limelight

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE steaming sewer grates and gaping pot-holes of New York are known and loved by cinema-goers around the globe. But few will have noticed that some of those mean streets are no longer really in the Big Apple.

Gotham, as the city is affectionately known in the film business after the towering metropolis in *Batman*, is struggling to attract movie-makers back after a seven-month-long strike of film unions that sent Hollywood producers packing to similar urban landscapes in Chicago and Toronto.

Although the strike ended in mid-May, the summer holiday and the glacial pace of Hollywood planning mean that the first big feature film crews are only now venturing back on to New York's streets. Unless the city can lure back its business — which produced 14 feature films last year before the strike began — it will fade from the silver screen.

During the dispute, the only big studio production in New York was Woody Allen's *Shadows and Fog*. It was just too improbable to place Allen, the archetypal New Yorker, in a look-alike exile. At least ten other films were steered away

by the strike. The mayor's office of film estimates that the city lost at least \$100 million (£57 million) during the long hiatus.

First indications are that many film people are only too happy to return to New York, where the film union made concessions on weekend and night-time filming. Spike Lee has begun filming his \$25 million film of Malcolm X, Sidney Lumet has started a Hassidic detective story titled *Close to Eden*, and the New York-born director, Paul Mazursky, has rolled on a new film called *The Pickle*. Also expected in town soon are film crews for *Night and the City* starring Robert De Niro, *Secret of a Woman* with Al Pacino, *Boomerang* with Eddie Murphy and the comedian Billy Crystal's directorial debut *Mr Saturday Night*. Woody Allen, of course, has also set his latest, as yet untitled, project in the city.

The average New Yorker, however, remains his normal blasé self, insisting that the return of the film crews only worsens traffic grid-lock. "Film crews assume they will be treated like apostles," wrote one irate resident of Greenwich Village in *The New York Times*.

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Croatia mobilises as return of Yugoslavia's heir stirs Serbian nationalism

Zagreb sounds general alert as war nears

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB AND TOM WALKER IN HAARLEM

THOUSANDS of young Croats were mobilised at emergency call-up centres yesterday as the vicious civil war between Serbs and Croats approached the gates of the capital, Zagreb, with its nearly one million people. In the Netherlands, European Community foreign ministers accepted that diplomacy was failing and considered urgent economic sanctions to help end the fighting, with Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, urging measures against the warring republics.

The call-up was ordered by Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, in a dramatic mid-night broadcast made as both sides exchanged contradictory letters regarding the latest European Community brokered truce. Throughout the

high rise buildings. Announcing the call-up, Mr Tudjman told the 4.5 million Croats: "The greater Serbian imperialists and the blood thirsty remnants of the Yugoslav communist military crossed over to a general attack on Croatia, violating all international ceasefire agreements. This demands that we mobilise all our forces in a defensive war."

General Andrija Raseta, the senior Yugoslav general in Zagreb described the broadcast as "a request for total war". He said his heavily armed troops would respond if Yugoslav barracks in the city were attacked.

In the Netherlands, Mr Hurd urged measures that could cause the warring republics short-term harm. He asked Greece to consider cutting the oil pipe line that runs through Macedonia. He hoped Czechoslovakia and Hungary would consider preventing oil barges reaching Yugoslavia.

The ministers agreed that unless the ceasefire is restored the EC will cut its Co-operation and Trade Agreement with Yugoslavia. But Mr Hurd said this measure "would not be effective in the short term". Nor did he hold out much hope that a total trade embargo against Yugoslavia could be implemented quickly, because such a move would need United Nations approval. The EC ministers invited Xavier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary general, to consider sending a special envoy to Yugoslavia this week.

Croatia and Slovenia have both said they will begin independence preparations today. Mr Hurd had harsh words for the federal army. "The army that is meant to protect its citizens is now their main oppressor."

Zagreb on alert, page 1



Flying the flag: a Croat woman showing her allegiance during a demonstration in support of Croatian independence in Trafalgar Square, London, yesterday

Montenegrins join city siege

FROM TIM JUDAH IN GRUDA, CROATIA

A PALL of smoke several miles across lay over the mountain tops south of Dubrovnik as the Yugoslav army tightened its grip around the city over the weekend.

Scores of forest fires blazed. Smoke poured from Croatian hill villages, and burnt-out lorries and cars lay scattered along the main road. Units from the neighbouring republic of Montenegro smashed through Croat positions in the full belief that it was their duty to liberate Dubrovnik from the grip of "Croatian fascism".

"We don't want to take Dubrovnik," said one Montenegrin soldier. "All we want to do is to go in and kill all the Ustashi there." The Ustasha was Croatia's second world war fascist force and the name is now used by Croatia's enemies to describe the government in Zagreb.

Eating a freshly roasted lamb on a captured farm, a unit of Montenegrins, historic allies of the Serbs, laughed when asked about the latest ceasefire. Miodrag, aged 25, a construction worker before

the war, said: "[Franjo] Tudjman [the Croatian president] always signs those when he needs time." Another chimed in: "Tudjman is fighting us so we must fight back. He is Hitler."

With the meal barely over, the command came for their unit to advance. Ten neatly laid-out mortar bombs were packed back into their boxes, guns were collected and the men began to move out. Trodden into the mud lay a copy of Tito's thoughts on agriculture.

Belgrade embraces exiled monarch

Crown Prince Alexander, heir to the Serbian throne, returned to Belgrade with the aim of encouraging democracy, Anne McElvoy writes

THE exiled heir to the Yugoslav throne returned home at the weekend to a rapturous welcome from the people of Belgrade and shouts of "Long live the king".

Thousands turned out at the airport to meet him, many brandishing the old Serbian flag bearing the white two-headed eagle, symbol of the Karadjordje dynasty. Burly, paramilitary men, provided by opposition groups who had invited Crown Prince Alexander, fought in vain to control the surge of the crowds as they chanted "Serbia for ever" and "Come back to us".

The prince was presented with the traditional gift of bread and salt. The old Serbian national anthem rang out for the first time since the monarchy was abolished by Marshal Tito's communists in 1945. Veterans from both world wars bearing their medals wept and vied to touch the prince. Gacsa Toma, aged 95 who was a Serbian officer in the first world war, said: "This is the happiest day in my life. I always knew that he would come back but I despaired when it took so long. I can die a contented man now. Our king has come back to us."

Prince Alexander, a London businessman, kissed soil brought from Topola, the seat of the Karadjordjevic dynasty that ruled Serbia from 1804. His father, King Peter II, fled to England in 1941 but never abdicated. Prince Alexander was born four years later in a suite in London's Claridges hotel. As the heirs to the dynasty are required to have been born on Yugoslav soil, the British government agreed to the king's request to declare a suite of the hotel Yugoslav territory for the day.

On the flight from Zurich, he was accompanied by his wife, Princess Katharine, and their three sons. Prince Alexander was guarded about the purpose of his visit, restricting his comments to

calls for a peaceful end to the conflict. "I want to encourage the growth of democracy in Yugoslavia. The country can only find a way out of its crisis via the conference room and not on the battle field." He admitted to being slightly nervous about what would await him at the other end.

He was cautious about pledging a return of the monarchy. "That is a very difficult and sensitive question," he said. "If I can encourage the democratic process and serve as a unifying figure, I will feel that I have answered the call of my country," he stated.

But while he was intent on emphasising the conciliatory nature of his visit, the supporters who accompanied him wherever he went left no doubt about the nationalist undertone of the visit, which is being viewed with apprehension in Croatia. On Saturday, the prince still seemed rather bemused at his welcome and vague about the purpose of his visit. He had handed over the public relations work to Tim Bell, who ran Mrs Thatcher's campaigns in the latter half of her premiership. Yesterday, however, he gained visibly in confidence as the day went on. When he laid a wreath on the tomb of his grandfather King Alexander, assassinated in Marseilles in 1934, he wept.



Alexander: a traditional gift of bread and salt

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Portugal goes to the polls

Lisbon - Portugal voted in general elections yesterday, with the ruling centre-right Social Democratic party confident of retaining power thanks to its record of economic growth and rising living standards.

The main challenge to Anibal Cavaco Silva, the prime minister, comes from the Socialist party. Opinion polls showed the socialists improving on their dismal performance in 1987, when they won just 60 seats, but nearly all predicted that the social democrats would retain their majority in the new 230-seat parliament, which will be 20 seats smaller than the old legislature. (Reuters)

Karamanlis ill

Athens - Constantine Karamanlis, president of Greece, entered hospital for tests after suffering high blood pressure and feeling faint. Doctors said the former prime minister, aged 84, was stable but needed more tests. He began a five-year term as president in 1990. (Reuters)

Tirana march

Belgrade - About 30,000 protesters in Tirana, Albania, called for President Alla's resignation and the arrest of former communist leaders, an opposition leader said. Led by Sali Berisha of the Albanian Democratic party, the marchers also called for the arrest of the widow of Enver Hoxha, the former dictator. (AFP)

Egyptian find

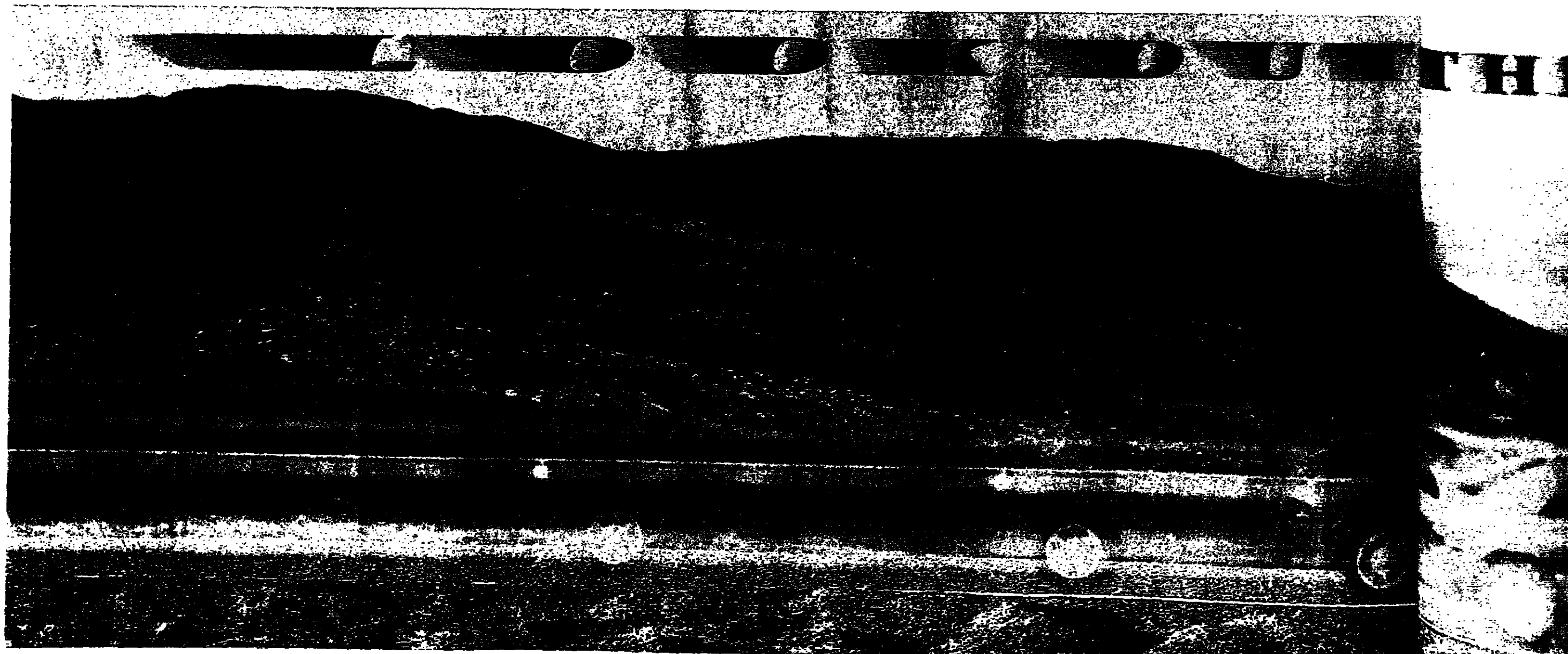
Cairo - German archaeologists have found a pyramid in the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor. The pyramid, built in 1400 BC, originally stood up to nine metres high and housed the tomb of a high-priest of the god Amun. Parts of the outside have collapsed but much of the interior is in good condition. (Reuters)

Smoking ban

Paris - France looks set to ban smoking in cinemas, lifts, taxis, parts of restaurants and other public places to reduce passive smoking. Offenders will be fined up to 2,500 francs (£260). (Reuters)

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Gorbachev paves way for deep cuts in nuclear arsenal

From CHARLES BREMNER in MOSCOW AND SUSAN ELLICOTT in WASHINGTON

AMERICAN and Soviet officials met in Moscow yesterday to consider in detail the thousands of nuclear weapons to be abandoned or curbed in the latest round of arms reductions. At the weekend President Gorbachev announced cuts that exceeded those proposed by President Bush ten days ago.

Mr Bush welcomed the Soviet proposals as "very good news for the whole world", but he was more cautious about Mr Gorbachev's suggestions for a US-Soviet summit and a moratorium on 50 years of nuclear testing.

American officials believe Mr Gorbachev is keen to meet Mr Bush to reassert his role as Kremlin leader after the failed right-wing coup against him in August. Mr Bush said, however, that Washington had "some areas we need to iron out" on arms initiatives be-

fore he would agree to a summit. He did not rule out the principle of a summit. The two leaders last met in Moscow in July, when they signed an accord to cut sharply their stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons.

World leaders yesterday hailed Mr Gorbachev's response to the Bush initiative as the completion of an historic shift away from the suspicion and confrontation that governed relations between the two nuclear giants for four decades. By matching Mr Bush's cuts, mainly involving the abandonment of short-range weapons, and then exceeding them by including 1,000 strategic warheads, the Soviet leader seemed to pave the way for a chain of reciprocal actions that could eventually cut deep into the long-range arsenals of each side.

In London, John Major said Mr Gorbachev's response

marked a "turning-point in the peace process". He said that "there may be a unique opportunity to see a dramatic de-escalation in nuclear weapons", but he insisted that Britain's Trident missile programme would be maintained as a "minimum defence".

Mr Bush's initiative has had the effect of bolstering Mr Gorbachev's shaky authority. Diplomats said the president may have had this in mind, as Washington was becoming increasingly alarmed at the speed of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Bush offer has enabled Mr Gorbachev to assert his command over defence and foreign policy while the republics are all but ignoring him on domestic issues.

In his 12-minute address, delivered without notice at 10pm on Saturday, Mr Gorbachev extolled dignified statesmanship and credited himself with being the originator of the round of cuts. "George Bush's proposals continue the drive started in Reykjavik," he said, referring to his suggestion to Ronald Reagan in 1986 to cut the long-range nuclear arsenal by at least half. "I know that Boris Yeltsin and leaders of other republics share this opinion," he said.

Mr Gorbachev, who has been urged by most republican leaders to move faster on cuts in Soviet armed forces and weapons to reduce the financial burden on the country, renewed his call for a 50 per cent reduction in arms.

In Utrecht yesterday, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told European Community foreign ministers that Britain did not envisage a "European army" as the key element of the community's defence and security. He said his proposed "European reaction force" would almost certainly use Nato troops and it would be able to respond to any Gulf-style conflict beyond the alliance's boundaries.

Leading article, page 15



Out of harm's way: Sacha Volski, Ira Petrenko and Oksana Mechenko, three Chernobyl children who are among a party of 15 being given a holiday at Hazelwood House in south Devon this month

Georgia seeks to avert war

From ROBERT SEELY in TBILISI

GEORGIA's parliament met yesterday in emergency session to find a solution to the clashes threatening to drag the republic into civil war.

After fighting on Saturday left 74 injured and at least two dead, deputies in Tbilisi have said that the current session of parliament is the last chance for a peaceful solution before prolonged conflict begins between the armed camps of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the president, and his opponents.

Opposition groups, led by the Georgian Popular Front and the National Democratic party, are demanding television time, release of alleged political prisoners and curtailment of Mr Gamsakhurdia's sweeping powers. Significantly, some are no longer demanding his resignation.

A dozen Ossetians were taken hostage and several houses looted in Ossetian villages during the past three days, Tass said, quoting Ossetian sources. Eight people were hurt in Tskhinvali on Saturday when Georgians fired rockets. Ossetian volunteers returned fire. About 250 Ossetians have been killed, 480 injured and 112 reported missing since clashes erupted in the South Ossetian region of Georgia last December.

Superpower initiative undermines Nato doctrine

Britain's determination to maintain a missile capability is threatened by unilateral cuts, Michael Evans writes

THE proposals and counter-proposals on nuclear arms cuts from Washington and Moscow now place in doubt some of the most fundamental aspects of the strategic balance between the big powers.

As part of his weekend nuclear cuts package, President Gorbachev called on Nato to scrap its doctrine of flexible response under which the "enemy" is threatened with steadily rising nuclear retaliation, from tactical to long-range systems. Nato governments have stuck to this doctrine in spite of the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, arguing that the strategy has helped to keep the peace in Europe for more than 45

years. Now, with the United States and the Soviet Union agreeing to scrap all land-based tactical systems, consisting of nuclear artillery shells and short-range missiles, one layer of the flexible response inventory is to be removed.

Britain, with apparent American support, insists that air-launched systems should remain. But this argument has been weakened after the initiatives from President Bush and Mr Gorbachev. First, Mr Bush

cancelled the development of the US short-range attack missile (Sram), the tactical version of which (Sram-T) was the favoured system for replacing the RAF's ageing free-fall bombs. The government wants a tactical air-to-surface missile (Tasm) with a range of about 350 miles in service by the late 1990s.

Although Mr Bush said a tactical air-launch capability should be retained, he appeared somewhat vague. Mr

Gorbachev included in his offer a promise to stop development of a modified short-range nuclear missile for Soviet strategic bombers, the equivalent of the American Sram system. He also said he would remove all tactical weapons from land-based naval aircraft. These moves are expected to be the first in a Soviet campaign to stop Nato, or Britain, deploying a new tactical air-launched missile.

So far, the British government has shown no inclination to cancel this RAF requirement. Later this month Nato defence ministers are meeting in Sicily to discuss nuclear weapons and Britain is expected to maintain its

long-standing commitment to replace free-fall bombs. While Britain may find itself in a minority over the purchase of Tasm, the government may feel on safer ground over the deployment of Trident, the replacement for Polaris.

The most surprising element of Mr Gorbachev's statement was his agreement to consider co-operating with the US on research into a strategic defence system, the first time Mr Gorbachev has softened his line on the strategic defence initiative. If the US and Moscow were to agree on a joint system, it would throw enormous doubt on the credibility of Britain's independent deterrent.

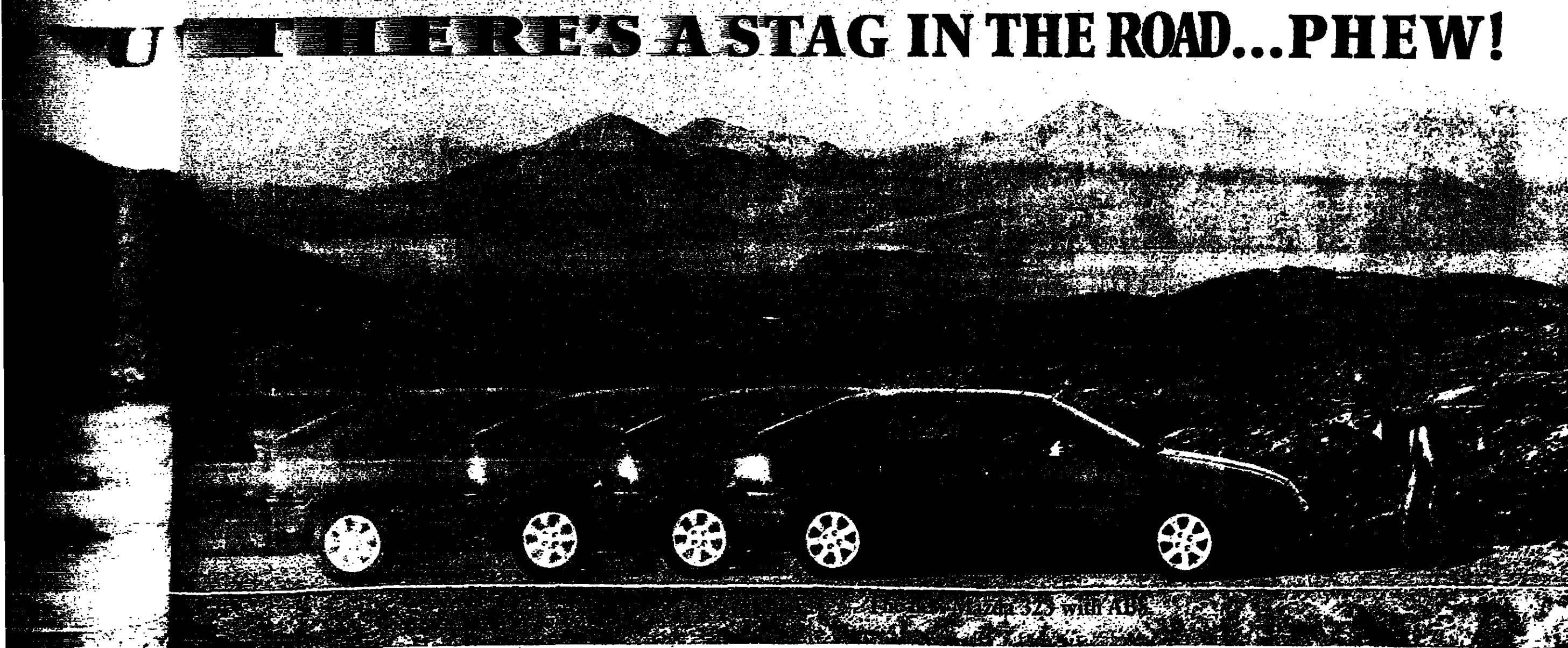
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Girls about town: Blackpool is the only British seaside resort where the tourists are getting younger every year, drawn by the nightclubs and more fruit machines than Las Vegas

Party time in Blackpool

In Blackpool they prefer the pigeon fanciers who come in January, the ballroom dancing convention in June and even the Young Farmers' Convention in May to the Conservative party conference in October.

Not that they have anything against the Conservatives; it is just that they never see anything of them apart from the security. And people in Blackpool like to see their ten million visitors a year to make sure they are having a laugh and spending their money — £435 million last year.

As far as they are concerned the town is about fun, and all these political meetings do not sound much like entertainment to them.

The 16,000 Tory faithful who descend on Blackpool every other year appear equally disdainful. They would prefer to be in Brighton or Bournemouth, so much closer to London. In Blackpool they spend the time between speeches at the Winter Gardens conference centre moaning about the lack of eating establishments.

One place that does see them is the Imperial Hotel. The Imperial is lush, plush and very non-Blackpool (183 rooms, £90 per night for a double, excluding meals). Enthroned beyond the North Pier, it rises above the glitter with its tasteful curtains and calorie-counted breakfasts. Everyone stays at the Imperial, or rather, everyone would like to.

"They are packed shoulder-to-shoulder," says Jayne Cole, the front of house manager. "They come here for tea after the speeches and stay all evening."

She understands why the MPs and delegates do not venture further into town. "I came from Birmingham on a day trip once with ten girlfriends. It was so tacky I vowed I would never come here

What will the Tory faithful be doing between speeches next week?
Alice Thomson joins the pleasure-seekers on the Golden Mile

again. But working here is different. Very few people in this hotel are what we call sandgown [brought up in Blackpool]."

At the tourist office John Hall, the deputy director of tourism and attraction, is quick to agree that there is a smart side to Blackpool, but feels it is a shame if delegates dismiss the rest. "The smarter side you can do in half an hour, then you can spend the rest of your time enjoying yourself," he says.

The September Brasserie, which opened only last year, has made it into the new edition of the *Good Food Guide*. Such delicacies as halibut fillet on saffron sauce are "the nearest Blackpool comes to nouvelle cuisine", the brasserie's manageress says. The Kinnocks found the brasserie by the end of the Labour party conference last year and, she claims, said they wished they had found it earlier. This year the brasserie is already fully booked.

Three miles from Blackpool is the area's only small country house hotel, the Riverside. This is the established haunt of those brave enough to wander away from the Imperial and the Winter Gardens. "We love the conferences," says Bill Scott, the Riverside's owner. "We are lucky because we get the cream. Cabinet ministers and senior MPs come here for dinner, year after year. We are booked up two years in advance, but I squeezed in Robin Day at short notice once."

where Les Dawson comes from, and where Blackpool's millionaires (more numerous than you might think) live.

Blackpool is Europe's oldest mecca of seaside entertainment. But its selling point is definitely not the sea, which is not fit to wash your socks in, as any Blackpool man will tell you. "Blackpool doesn't pretend to be anything it isn't," Mr Hall says. "We cater for those who have got a few quid in their hands and want instant gratification, and at this we are professionals. If only the MPs could let their hair down a bit they could have a good time."

The first place to go is the Blackpool Tower, Blackpool's equivalent of the Eiffel Tower,

In the shopping centre next to the Winter Gardens (where 42nd Street will resume its run on Friday night when the conference is over), Tom Holden, a shop manager, volunteers that "we don't like the conference. The holidaymakers keep away and the police make you feel edgy." The shopping is good quality high-street style; if MPs and delegates have forgotten their Clinique skin care they will have to take a five-mile ride out to St Anne's. This is

only much better, according to Lorna and Edna, who swept me up with a gaggle of their elderly friends. They had come back for a reunion at the ballroom, a grand Edwardian rococo masterpiece on the third floor of the leisure centre that squats under the legs of the tower. The women got their combs out, hung up their cardies and buckled on their silver dancing shoes. The star of the dance floor was a young larp of 50 in a night out on the town.

At 5pm the dancers begin to disappear, either to their guest houses, where dinner is at 5.30pm prompt, or to the Tower restaurant, where steak and kidney pie with chips, peas and beans costs £2.99 and sherry trifle is £1.49. The nostalgic Children Thrill to Jungle Jim's adventure playground, the horror dungeons, and a whole seafal of fish downstairs in the aquarium.

As the seafarers, the Blackpool illuminations dazzle and people gather along the front. Battling against the gale from one discount store to another, ferreting their way among the Simpson dolls, the pleasure beach — 40 acres of stomach-churning rides — is its ultimate destination.

Here an Arab family is sampling the delights. The visitors have come for three weeks and seem intent on going on as many rides as possible, including the infamous twin-track roller-coaster, the Revolution.

'We cater for those who want instant gratification. If only the MPs could let their hair down they could have a good time'

Locals are not surprised to see sheikhs jetting in with their entourages. Last month one family reputedly spent £10,000 in a weekend, and even Saudi Arabia's royal family has paid a visit. Tourist brochures are now being written in Arabic.

Back at the Imperial Hotel Detective Constable Bill Webster is making his last security checks before the conference. "There are all sorts of people here who are doing what they shouldn't be, so they get angry when we start prying," he says. "If you want to see the Blackpool the MPs never see, you will have to come for a night out on the town."

There are 45 nightclubs in Blackpool and this, as much as fruit machines (more than Las Vegas), is what the young come for. Blackpool is the only British seaside resort where the tourists are getting younger every year. "There's one problem," says Mr Webster when I meet him downstairs. "We don't wear jeans in Blackpool. The girls here wear white heels, and tiny skirts. We call it the Minnie Mouse look."

The bars are packed with young men and women. They do not look bored, but "boredom" is what the area health authority suggests as the reason for the town's high teenage pregnancy rate. With one in 14 girls under 18 becoming pregnant, it is two times higher than Britain's average.

A girl at a club offers a different reason, as she applies some more fake tan to her legs in the ladies' lavatory. "They start young here, that's why. Here you can do whatever you like without the whole village gossiping, so everyone tends to go a bit wild." She looks me over critically. "You'd have more luck if you wore some make-up."

Sex and the single writer

Why an American feminist regularly adopts the missionary position in *Playboy*

Cynthia Heimel, an American writer, is where girl talk and feminism meet. Eight years ago she wrote a book titled *Sex Tips for Girls*. It was a cheerful, scurrilous and extremely funny sex and modern etiquette manual, covering such matters as How to Be Blindingly Beautiful and Zen and the Art of Diaphragm Insertion. Young women felt about laughing, wished she could be their best friend and lent each other their copies. Quietly it became a cult; it is still being reprinted.

This month Ms Heimel's third book, *If You Can't Live Without Me Why Aren't You Dead Yet?*, came out. It too is sexy, scurrilous and funny, but not quite so cheerful. Where *Sex Tips* sent up the 1980s, this collection of her columns from *Playboy* and the *Village Voice*, where she writes as Problem Lady, offers a commentary on what actually went on during them. *Sex Tips* comes of age, and you've got to laugh or else you'd cry.

I meet Ms Heimel at the hairdresser, as he brushes out her curls. "Be careful! I'm a delicate flower."

"That's your perception of yourself," he says enigmatically.

"No," Ms Heimel says, "it's a joke." Ms Heimel wants nothing so much as for men and women to understand each other. She sees her role at *Playboy* as being "in the missionary position, preaching to the unconverted."

"Can we talk about feminism?" she asks. "It's not dead, right? I hate it when people say it is. That 'I've got mine' attitude, like we don't need feminism any more."

She remembers when "feminism meant that a woman, although she liked and lusted after men, wanted to be in charge of her own life and her own job and her own cariburetor", and is sad that it has come to mean "a ballbuster who hates all men and wants to see them dead."

"The media tend to pervert feminism. They get hold of the mad ones and work them up into a lather. My generation made a sacrifice — you see all these 40-year-old women wandering around exhausted. They didn't get to have children — I did, ha ha. So when you see younger women going backwards, being servile or self-satisfied, you get frustrated. Not resentful, no. There's not some group of resentful 40-year-olds. I don't call up Gloria Steinem every night and report. But there's a new wave due in this movement."

The other thing on Ms Heimel's mind today is dates. She'd like to know when a date is not a date and how you can tell. She'd like to know if it's different in London from in New York, where she lived for 17 years, and Los Angeles, where she has just moved. Her favourite phrase is "No, tell me, I'm curious." It's probably be a key line in her newest project; she had breakfast with David Puttnam and he

wants her to write a film. The hairdresser's assistant is holding bunches of hair out of the way of the scissors, and they hang beside her face like dog ears. "I feel like a spaniel," she says. "Art! People always want to know what I think about dogs."

What does she think about dogs? "This anti-dog propaganda is frightening — that dogs are horrible and dirty. It's the same with feminists — people take the mad ones and exaggerate things and apply that to the whole species. And there's no rabies in the US — why couldn't I bring my dog over?"

Ms Heimel is 40 and single. She feels that too many men still treat



Carl talk: Cynthia Heimel and coiffeur

women as prey or invisible and describes herself as being just between the two.

"Put down the dog fanciers' magazine, sit quietly and listen to me very carefully," is her advice, in the guise of Problem Lady, to the woman who feels she's turning into a spinster, with dogs and knitting. "In the past an unmarried woman approaching 40 would have two choices: she would become the fussy old babe you describe or, even worse, she would desperately apply more and more eye shadow, expose more and more cleavage, drink more and more bourbon and laugh louder and louder at cocktail parties. But you're not like that. It's a minefield of stereotypes out there. But you must thread your way through them. Don't you dare roll over and play dead."

Is that your advice, Problem Lady? "Yeah, just follow your own personal goofy little star." The curls are now rampant and glossy. "How does it look? You like it?" says the ballbuster, looking radiant.

LOUISE YOUNG

● If You Can't Live Without Me Why Aren't You Dead Yet? by Cynthia Heimel is published by Fourth Estate, £6.99
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Dame Jill Knight asks why, if children's welfare is paramount, 'virgin' births are still allowed

When father was only a test tube

Health ministers appear blissfully unaware of the volume of concern which is mounting over the way in which the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority is setting about its business.

A taste of what is to come emerged in March when it was reported that two women, who may not have been virgins but were certainly single, demanded first to be made pregnant artificially, and then to have abortions. Doctors admitted that ten similar cases had probably occurred this year. None of these happened under the aegis of the new authority, which took over from the Interim Licensing Authority on August 1, but they happened before Parliament realised where the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act could lead us, before the media highlighted the implications of so-called virgin births, and before doctors warned that there were grave misgivings about the way in which the authority (set up to regulate both the treatment and research) was developing.

In these circumstances there should have been another opportunity to debate the matter in the House. None was given. The issues that came up in the debate were surrogacy, embryo experimentation and abortion. No one realised that we were opening the door to the intentional creation of unnatural, single-parent families.

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service did announce, some months ago, that it would not involve itself in "virgin" births. But this is the only organisation in the field (and there are scores and scores of them up and down the country) that has made such a decision. Any single and unsupported woman who desires it can apply for artificial insemination by donor (AID).

There is serious public concern about this matter, which will not have been eased by the fact that the authority's code of practice states boldly that single women are "entitled to apply to become mothers through artificial insemination".

Parliament never voted for that. And of course they are similarly "entitled" to apply to have an abortion if they change their minds. What they are "entitled" to do if the baby turns out to be handicapped, or if they find they cannot manage to care for the child alone, or if they cannot afford the cost of bringing it up, is not actually spelt out in the code. But undoubtedly the responsibility will pass to the taxpayer who has no "entitlements" whatever in the matter.



'Parliament could, and should, give greater protection to these children'
Dame Jill Knight

However, even that is not the most worrying aspect. I received literally hundreds of letters from people who had read of my involvement in the "virgin" births controversy and were appalled at the prospect of fatherless children being produced quite deliberately.

What came over very strongly was that children need fathers; where those fathers had divorced or left the mother, or died, children still needed to relate to a father who did exist, or had existed. A child will ask about his father. It will be a terrible answer that he never had one — only a test tube.

More recently people have written to express their concern about the "trivialisation" and "belittling" of fatherhood, and have asked whether it is right that donors should be absolved of all responsibility for their children. There is, it is felt, a world of difference between a couple who appear unable to have a child being helped scientifically so to do, and a single woman demanding official, medical and legal insemination.

During the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill in committee I moved an amendment which would have meant that the well-being of any child to be born as a result of this scientific procedure must be considered and must be "paramount". The minister would only accept that "account should be taken of the child". Yet in legislation covering adoption the welfare

of the child is "paramount". Only a few months ago a case was reported of a British couple who wished to adopt a Romanian child. They were turned down because the husband had a heart condition, and the panel decided that there was a chance the child grew up. Even the possibility of the child being brought up with no father stopped the adoption.

Why is a child to be adopted of greater importance than a child produced as a result of a scientific procedure? And since the adopted child now has a legal right to locate his parents, why should this right be denied to these children?

When ministers and others have been taxed with questions of this kind, the answer has always been that the mother will receive counselling — a response which signally fails to address the problem. Not a single word has yet been uttered to indicate that the child (who has no voice and no status) should have its "entitlements" too. The only one it has — and it is slim — is that its welfare must be considered, but it is not to be given precedence.

The advancement of science brings countless blessings but there is a dark side, too. Parliament could, and should, give greater protection to children, and may well have to take the blame that it did not.

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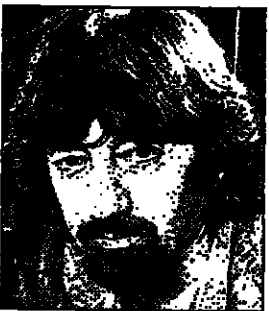
BRIEFING

British double

FOR the first time the London Film Festival opens and closes with new British films. Mike Newell's *Enchanted April* — a feminist-slanted comedy with a plot sparked by a Times personal advertisement — starts the ball rolling on November 6. It stops about 200 films later, on November 21, with James Fox and Fanny Ardant in *Affair of the Heart*. Mark Peploe's psychological thriller, *Postcard*, opens on October 17; public booking on November 1. Details from the National Film Theatre (071-928 3232).

Home at last

HAVING played to 16 million people worldwide, the Trevor Nunn/John Caird production of *Les Misérables* finally reaches the city where it all started: Paris. Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg opened their musical in Paris in September 1980. But it was not until Cameron



Macintosh and the RSC waved their magic wands over *Les Mis* five years later in London that it became a hit. Their production now opens at the Théâtre Mogador on October 23, but Victor Hugo devotees may experience some queasiness: the cast will sing the English translation *retranslated* back into French.

Last chance...

THE best-known artistic consequences of Japan's mid-19th century opening up took place at a distance: Whistler and Monet never went to Japan. Some British artists were more enterprising. In "Opening the Window" the Fine Arts Society (071-629 5116) examines the responses to Japan of Mortimer Menpes, the Glasgow Boys Henry and Hornell, and Alfred East. Ends Friday.

ARTS REVIEWS
Kabuki Theatre at the National, plus concerts
Page 18

THEATRE

The play must go on ... and on

With Alan Ayckbourn's latest dramatic marathon arriving in the West End, Matt Wolf reports on the playwrights who believe in giving the public more



Event theatre at its best: Michael Maloney as Hal and Robert Stephens as Falstaff, in Adrian Noble's *Henry IV* for Stratford

In an age when the very survival of theatre itself can be seen as an event, a genre one might refer to as "event theatre" seems to have taken hold. Mostly, these productions are large-scale and long, and appear in the subsidised sector where freedom from commercial pressure allows risk-taking at best, self-indulgence at worst. Occasionally, as Alan Ayckbourn's *The Revengers' Comedies* is now demonstrating, the genre spills over into the West End in an effort to shake up a form whose ground rules otherwise remain constricting.

Why, after all, should a play conform to conventions of time and space if the dramatist has other ideas? Beckett and Pinter are among those who have written greatly distilled works, sometimes as brief as a minute or two. The converse, then, is certainly permissible if Ayckbourn wants to tell his newest play in five-and-a-half hours over two evenings, or in one-day marathons.

The rewards are great, allowing for a panoramic breadth and scope that few writers attempt. But the risks of "event theatre" are clear. Present something in two or three parts, and face the possibility that your audience may divide away or nod off, as was happening to some *Mahabharata* goers at Peter Brook's Glasgow production. Worse yet, conceive an evening of theatre on a scale people are not primed for, and find yourself playing to a mere handful of devotees. Such was director Mike Alfreds's scenario in 1987, with his five-hour National Theatre staging of *Countryside*, and his equally time-consuming production of *The Wandering Jew*, also at the National.

When they do work, event productions offer the pleasure that comes from an audience communally experiencing a broadened dramatic vision. The gathering together for a special occasion is at the very heart of what theatre is," says Adrian Noble of the Royal Shakespeare Company, whose first season as artistic director has been defined by such events.

He opened the Stratford season this spring with the two parts of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, a Bardic event familiar to recent RSC theatregoers from Trevor Nunn's Barabarian inaugural in 1982, or

from Noble's own *Plantagenets* marathon two seasons ago. Next month, Noble's production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, translated from Sophocles by Timberlake Wertenbaker, will immerse audiences in over six hours of Greek tragedy.

Noble explains: "One is appealing to something very central to the audience's appetite for theatre. Originally, the plays I am currently doing would have been put on at the spring festival of Dionysus over two or three days, as perhaps the only performances of the year, so the audience went in a particular

frame of mind; the plays served a function at once political and religious and social."

So, too, does the best of event theatre, as its veterans acknowledge. While commercial theatre may be contracting in every sense — smaller casts, shorter running times — the public appetite for epic theatre increases, provided the material justifies the length. Director David Freeman may have had trouble luring people last year to his two-part *Morte d'Arthur* at the Lyric Hammersmith, but that is only because not every saga exerts

the pull of a *Nicholas Nickleby*. Attending David Edgar's Dickens adaptation, by contrast, one felt the exalted power of a narrative in full flow. Sucked into the drive — and the humanity — of the source material, audiences were reluctant to leave both the theatre and one another. Says Noble: "A bonding takes place in the audience, and you actually start making friends. People feel they have shared some extraordinary journey."

For Alan Ayckbourn, narrative is the key which may be one reason why marathons such as *The Mys-*

teries, directed by Bill Bryden at the National and then on the West End, have proved so compelling. What better story than that of the Creation or, on a less cosmic scale, man's capacity for ruthlessness and evil which provides the sobering subtext of Ayckbourn's blackly comic current play?

His intention, Ayckbourn recalls, was to develop an idea "which could well spread over into something bigger, an event. I don't think I actually started by saying, 'I want to write a five-hour play,' but occasionally it does me good to

address myself to something which stretches me." It is the result, then, of his own "bet-you-can't-do-it" dare to himself.

Practical difficulties remain, not least in how you encourage the audience to return for more, especially when a separate evening out is required. This year at Stratford, the *Henry*s have played to capacity on marathon days, dipping to 70 per cent or so when seen over two nights. Noble believes the titles matter hugely, and he insisted the second play in the *Plantagenets* trilogy be called by the invented title *Edward II* rather than anything with the potentially lethal words "Part Two".

"Who wants to see part of anything?" Noble says of his rationale. He admits, though, that this logic has its limitations: "I couldn't do that with *Henry II*. *Part Two* because it is too famous."

Meanwhile, one of the pleasures of being Alan Ayckbourn may be that one has engendered sufficient goodwill over the decades (*Revengers' Comedies*, premiered at his home theatre in Scarborough in 1989, marked his 37th play) to face both the *Part Two* obstacle and the obvious commercial risk of the project.

The author points out that the Scarborough public cautiously booked first for *Part One* before committing themselves to *Part Two*. "On double days, it was like a mini Glyndebourne; people had their picnics and sat outside. But on nights of *Part Two* alone, the actors found themselves warming up an audience who hadn't been in for the first two acts." Accordingly, Ayckbourn prefers during the West End run that *Revengers' Comedies* be seen as "a four-act play with a convenient division" rather than as a two-part ordeal. And as for the public's much claimed inability to focus, Ayckbourn takes an opposing view. "The belief is that we are in a disposable culture where everything has to tie in to that mythical short attention span."

"Audiences respond to what seems special. People do love the new, the exciting, the original; they really do enjoy it."

● *The Revengers' Comedies* is in preview at *The Strand Theatre* (071-240 0300) and opens on October 16.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Perfect pitch for the ages of man

For about 70 of his 80 years, Shura Cherkassky has been a pianist of wide reputation. Yet he owns practically nothing. He lives, when in London, in a cramped, cluttered room in an otherwise smart hotel off the Marylebone Road. He rents his piano and haphazardly piles his music on top of it. He is plainly ill at ease with the practicalities of life if they

Stephen Pettitt
meets the pianist
Shura Cherkassky,
as he celebrates his
80th birthday

have nothing to do with work, though he takes great care with his appearance on the concert platform. "This is a new afternoon suit and the sleeves weren't the same. Are they the same now? Don't tell me they're not! The new concert suit is fine, but before it kept falling down. I try not to think of it when I play Schumann. Schumann was rather mad, wasn't he?"

The thought briefly crosses one's mind that perhaps Cherkassky, 80 today, is a touch eccentric, too. When we spoke, he was worrying about a piece new to him that he was due to play in a few days' time. "I know it pretty well, but there are six lines I just can't remember. I have to read it at night, I have to take it to bed with me. I just hope nobody comes with the music!"

Those who think of Cherkassky as an incurable romantic might be surprised that the work he was talking about was Charles Ives' "Three-Page Sonata". Not long ago he also tackled Stockhausen's *Klavierstücke IX* at Carnegie Hall. "That was a sensation, because they didn't expect a person of my type to play a piece like that. Why did I do it? Because it was a challenge. I like modern music. If you practice, it doesn't sound strange."

Cherkassky began his life in Odessa. "My mother was a good pianist. She played for Tchaikovsky, his 'F' major Variations" in Petersburg. She was really very promising, but she had terrible cramps and couldn't play any more. In those days they didn't know what physiotherapy and massage was. That's why I'm so fanatical about massage and swimming. I never touch alcohol either. My father taught me to read music. He was a dentist who also played the violin. When he taught me I seemed to grasp it immediately. Perhaps I had been a musician in a former life."

Cherkassky's family was forced to flee the Soviet Union in 1922. "For three days we had almost nothing to eat. We had relatives in Baltimore. We took a train to Moscow and

waited for ten days for a train to Riga. Then we took the boat for America. When afterwards I went to Europe with other schoolchildren on a tour I couldn't imagine that Paris was on the same continent as the Soviet Union."

In the United States, he became a well-known child prodigy. "Rachmaninov lived in New York and I went to play to him. He said, 'Yes I'll teach you, but you must not give concerts for two years.' Then Josef Hofmann heard me play, and he said, 'I'll teach you and you must give concerts'. I've never regretted following his advice, even though it was Rachmaninov's I rejected. Hofmann was a child prodigy himself. He said that if you have it in your blood, don't stop."

Cherkassky shows no signs of relaxing into old age. "People ask if I ever get tired. I get tired not with the big things but with the little things. The delay of the plane, that's not the fault of management. That doesn't tire me. We can control pollution in Bangkok but not the weather. But if I arrive and I'm not met, or the room isn't quite ready, things like that, I get very tired."

Does he still practise? "Four hours a day. Hofmann said if you can't do it in four hours you can't do it at all, and he was right. To be a pianist, talent isn't enough. You have to have a strong character. I'm terribly methodical. I have to practise like a clock. If I'm even one minute short I have to make it up. At weekends I do four hours in two days. And I treat the sixth and seventh of every month, and the 18th and 19th, like Saturday and Sunday."

"I'm embarrassed to practise in front of anybody who has never heard me before. They say, 'Is that Cherkassky? But he can't play, it sounds like he's tuning the piano.' That's because I practise in a peculiar way. You know how you can tell that old pianists are getting old? The chords are not clean. I practise in such a way that the fingers are in the middle of the notes, not overlapping other notes."

Cherkassky's performances are renowned, even notorious, for their unpredictability. "Yes, it's true I'm sometimes criticised for playing differently every time. Some conductors, especially, don't like it, and I can't blame them. I don't do it on purpose. I



"I'm sometimes criticised for playing differently every time"

think I have more control now. But to play too strictly is not good. Most young pianists nowadays generally play the same way, and it's just not interesting. You come out of the concert and you forget I like to remember."

● Shura Cherkassky performs at St John's, Smith Square, London, in a BBC Lunchtime Concert broadcast live on Radio 3 at 1.05pm today, and at the Festival Hall on Sunday at 3.15pm.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Credibility shot to hell

THE latest issue of *InterCity*, the British Rail magazine, contains a page of quiz questions on what it calls "modern history". The questions are taken from real life, until you reach number 15: Who shot JR? This refers to an incident in Dallas in 1980, two years after the soap was first launched in Britain.

Those who say that British Rail is never on time had their comeuppance yesterday, when within hours of attempting to answer the question, I watched the very last, absolutely the final episode of the programme. And at the end of it, JR shot JR.

I dare say there is no shortage of people who think that Dallas is a programme and not a city, in the same way that some years ago a group of children in Manchester was asked which region they lived in, and 60 per cent replied "Granada". This is frightening, this is amusing, this is both and neither. Much the same could be said for JR.

Dallas fell from grace with the British audience four years ago, when Bobby Ewing, who was supposed to be dead, stepped out of a shower after 18 months to announce that his demise had been a dream. British plumbing being what it is, we all know you cannot spend 18 seconds in a shower without either freezing or

scalding because somebody has turned on a tap somewhere on the same latitude. Until then, we were prepared to believe that people actually lived like this, and having been in Texas dining rooms full of wealthy men wearing ten-gallon hats, accompanied by Sue Ellen lookalikes, I am more prepared than most to believe it.

The final episode consisted of JR being visited by an agent of the devil dressed in a white tuxedo, who showed our hero-villain what would have happened to the people in his life had JR never been born. On the whole, they were just as miserable, but not nearly so rich. The exception being Cliff Barnes, who became — wait for it — vice-president of the United States, a shock from which JR had barely recovered before the president had a stroke. "I am," Barnes told his wife, "acting president of the United States."

Acting? President? Cliff Barnes? Ronald Reagan? Is this life, or art, or what? No wonder JR put a pistol to his head. What with finding wimps in the White House and himself doing British Gas commercials, Larry Hagman must need time to get his head straight. Eighteen months should do it.

PETER BARNARD

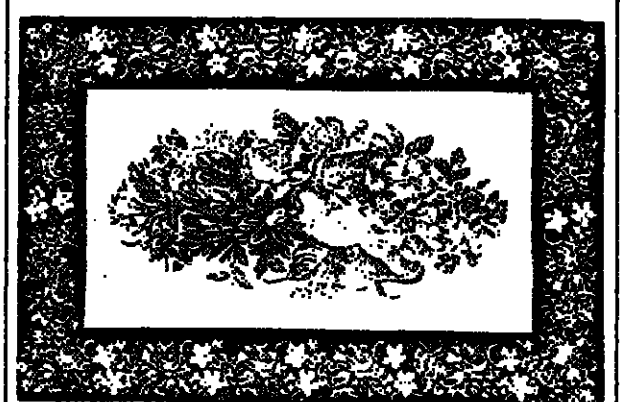
"A physics graduate walked out at 4.30 p.m. on day 1 having, as he laconically put it, 'given it a whirl'."



This Friday The TES finds out who drops out of teacher training and why.

TES

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All Heath's children

Peter Riddell explains why so few of the ministers at the Tories' Blackpool conference will be Thatcherites

The Conservative party is now run by Heath's children rather than Thatcher's people. Over recent weeks I have often been struck by how limited Margaret Thatcher's legacy has been in Downing Street and at the top of her party — far less than the lasting impact of her policies on the country. The handbag has been quickly replaced by the cricket bat. That has created an opportunity for John Major that he has not yet fully seized.

Mrs Thatcher surprisingly failed to remodel the leadership of her party. When she arrives on the platform of the conference on Wednesday to a tumultuous ovation — do I hear eight minutes? — she will find few of her natural allies sitting around her. Four of the cabinet, Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Baker, William Waldegrave and John MacGregor, worked for Edward Heath personally; another half dozen were closely associated with him: John Gummer, married Heath's secretary. Unlike their mentor, all have modified their views during the 1980s, embracing many aspects of Thatcherism, in several cases producing a breach with the sage of Salisbury.

But where are the Thatcher people? Gone and heading for the House of Lords in almost every case. Mrs Thatcher not only failed to groom a successor but she also fell out with many of her strongest supporters, several of whom then became fierce critics. The list of the lost is long — Leon Brittan, John Biffen, Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson are only the most prominent. Others departed, such as Norman Tebbit and Cecil Parkinson, and some, such as John Moore, never quite made it.

For all her fierce partisanship, Mrs Thatcher promoted on the basis of ability in office, and she excluded loyal supporters who were not seen as cabinet material. She paid the price last November when few of her cabinet urged her to fight on after the first ballot. In the present cabinet only Peter Lilley, Michael Howard and Norman Lamont can be counted Thatcher's people. There are more among middle-ranking and junior ministers, but many have accommodated quickly to the new regime.

Mrs Thatcher also failed to change the ideological composition of the parliamentary party, mainly because it is not very ideological. There is no evidence that constituency parties select candidates on the basis of specific views. For all the high profile of the No Turning Back group of MPs, most of whom are now ministers, they are a minority within a party dominated by the less-committed. Mrs Thatcher's leadership may have attracted



Heath and Thatcher: whose party now?

some people who agreed with her to stand as candidates. But any party shift in a Thatcherite direction reflected more the events of the 1980s, a long-term broadening in social background of MPs, and an increase in the number representing southern England rather than the north and Scotland. She also left little mark on the way the government is run. Her authority was exercised in a personal way via close aides such as Sir Charles Powell and Sir Bernard Ingham. Once they had gone, there was a rapid return to a less personal and more collective style of decision making. As one minister told me: "I no longer feel my day is going to be ruined if I get a call from the prime minister's office at breakfast time." You just have to walk into 10 Downing Street to notice the difference. Unlike Mrs Thatcher in 1975, who inherited a shadow cabinet of Mr Heath's allies, Mr Major has had a more sympathetic team from the start. That partly reflects his own ability to link Heath's children and Thatcher's people.

But in what direction does he want to take the party? The change in style is already evident, and there have been some policy changes, notably the demise of the poll tax and the greater emphasis on improving public services rather than cutting tax. Tory strategists say the theme in Blackpool will be competence in government: getting on with the job. Ministers will attempt to shift attention from September's mini-campaign to what they are going to do over the next six months, plus hints of what President Bush likes to call "the vision thing".

I wonder if that is enough. The message of Labour's conference last week was not that Neil Kinnock has suddenly been transformed — his familiar weaknesses remain — but that he is leading a more united and harmonious party than at any time since the early 1980s. It is no longer far-fetched to imagine the Kinnock team forming a government. There are certainly many holes and uncosted promises in the Labour programme. But the Tories cannot rely on attacking Labour, offering competence and hoping for the economy to recover by next spring (where they may be too optimistic). Mr Major needs to explain where he is taking the Thatcher legacy; some meat on the bones of the Citizen's Charter would help for a start. He has to show that it is no longer Mrs Thatcher's party.

...and moreover
MATTHEW PARRIS

Have you always wanted a Yomiko baby seal? This eight-inch cuddly toy in synthetic, flame-resistant white fur ("How," asked my Barclaycard Profiles 1991 catalogue, "could you resist those appealing eyes?") peeps out from a cornucopia of goodies. Why hadn't I studied this brochure before? Excitement about the seal is soon forgotten as, pausing to study the collapsible wheelbarrow, and passing over the pet carrier ("non-toxic, plastic, with shoulder strap") we race on... what's this? Hot air ballooning! "Fulfill your wildest dreams..." Or you can ride in a Formula One powerboat, join the AA, subscribe to *House Beautiful*, then relax with a full-body massage and a hydro in Leicestershire.

I went first to the pictures. Only after marking what I wanted ("tune-up time, with Rosemary Conley at Henley Grange") did I move to the one page with no pictures: Conditions. Ah. Conditions. To encourage us to use our cards, we "earn" one "point" for each £10 spent. "You don't have to spend more. Just switch your spending to your Barclaycard." Good. I shall amass quite a total, as the years pass...

Ah. Duration. Points can be collected only between August 1991 and July 1992. Bother. I've lost a couple of months already. Never mind, I'll start tomorrow. How many points will get me the Yomiko baby seal? I turned to

the photograph of the seal: an unfortunate pose, straddling the front cover of a gossip magazine so that Jason Donovan appears to have his face buried in the seal's fluffy hindquarters. 190 points says the inset. For the seal, that is, not Jason Donovan. Do you, like me, calculate that we shall have to spend £1,900 to get this seal?

Mentally, I take a rain-check on the seal. How about the collapsible wheelbarrow ("strong, rust-resistant, made of polypropylene"). 390 points + £12.50. Hold on! Plus £12.50? That's after spending £3,900? Surely I have made some mistake? Trying the sums again, I paged forward.

For the "three blank videotapes" only £1,900 need be spent. Forgoing (shall we?) the £12,500 you would have to spend to get an "octagonal music box" (though "the perfect place to keep those special possessions", you would by then have had to pawn the special possessions to meet your Barclaycard repayments), we could instead start with a more modest challenge: the £1,900 we must spend before our "attractive terracotta clay wall pot" arrived, with a warning to "shelter against extreme weather conditions"... or extreme impact conditions, as the miserable little unglazed flowerpot is hurtled against the wall.

A modest shortlist, then, from Profiles, of things to see and buy and do, such as an ordinary and unambitious Barclaycard holder might plan...

America is obsessed by the marriage of Liz Taylor, reports William Cash from Los Angeles

Hail, great Cleopatra

American fascination with the details of Elizabeth Taylor's wedding (down to the hand-sculpted ice angels on each table) reached the level of obsession over the weekend. All network television stations kept a close watch on the ceremony and reminded viewers that Taylor is the closest the United States has to royalty. *The National Inquirer* billed it "the wedding to end all weddings".

The appeal of Liz Taylor to the US public represents more than a glitzy attempt at Charles and Diana oneupmanship. Her appetite for grand consumption — men, chocolate, liquor — is matched only by America's own capacity to witness excess. With the country (especially Hollywood) still in the grip of recession, the timing of her estimated \$1.5 million wedding to Larry Fortensky, a 39-year-old construc-

tion worker, is impeccable. Just when studio budgets are being slashed, Taylor flaunts her wealth and dresses up (a £13,000 yellow Valentino number) to star in the role she plays best — herself.

Her devil-may-care attitude, coupled with a love of ostentation and a racy streak of vulgarity, is part of her fascination for the American public. She may have looked starchy-eyed and beguiling in such films as *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, but in life she has never been afraid of letting the screen mask slip for unseemly public rows with Richard Burton, or posing for the unflattering "hillocks of fat" photograph. When on the campaign trail with her seventh hus-

band, Senator John Warner, she would change outfits in petrol station lavatories.

In her dedication to charity (she was a founder of the American Foundation for AIDS research) she behaves like royalty. Yet the flip side of this behaviour is her work as buccaneer saleswoman, touring the country to promote her latest perfume. The exclusive media rights for covering her wedding were sold for millions to the highest bidder, but the money goes not to her bank account but to charity. Such trash antiques have always fuelled the American dream.

Taylor, with her treasure chest of jewels, her exhibitionism and her self-indulgence, is more able to

behave like a Cleopatra than real royalty today (in Britain at least) is ever permitted. The queen of Hollywood can also, unlike real royalty, dump her latest husband tomorrow, if she so wishes. Despite her many personal tragedies, she has always been able to pick up the pieces and start again. Her roller-coaster of a life, with all its extremes of passion and pain, embodies the Huck Finn optimism at the heart of the American psyche.

If the British are obsessed about the past, Americans are equally so about the future. And weddings, in Hollywood at least (next at the altar is Steven Spielberg), have the all-important promise of a happy ending. The only line missing

from the script of Taylor's movie yesterday was the vow, "Till death do us part". Taylor, who is nearly 60, asked for the words to be dropped.

Another reason why the wedding is being portrayed as a fairytale Disney production is that her eighth husband is a Mr Nobody with a dubious past. For him it must be a fantasy come true. To be ordered by a court to enrol at the Betty Ford Clinic for alcoholism and drug dependency and end up being proposed to by a co-patient, one of the richest film stars in the world... such things are meant only to happen in movies.

In Hollywood, where the edges between fantasy and reality are often blurred, to produce a film with such a star for \$1.5m is an achievement. These days you would have difficulty shooting a B-movie for that.

Break, enter and be damned

Imagine a law that let the police kick down your door: it is here, writes Bernard Levin

Here is a party game for a rather gloomy family. Think of a law which is bound to deepen further the growing suspicion and hostility that today face the police (juries, for instance, are increasingly refusing to convict on police evidence alone).

To show just how the game is played, let me give a very fanciful example. Imagine a law which would give the ordinary police of this country powers to enter your home at any time of the day or night, without a warrant or any warning, to break down the door if you refuse entry, to turn you out of your house while they search it, to take away anything they please, to question your wife and arrest her if she fails to answer, to demand an answer to their questions and to be charged with an offence if you remain silent and insist on having your solicitor with you when you are interrogated, and to do any or all of these things to any person in your home, whether relative, friend or secretary, or for that matter any passing door-to-door vacuum-cleaner salesman who has dropped in to demonstrate his wares.

And what do you say when I tell you that exactly such a law, with exactly such provisions, is not part of any game, but is real, and is about to come into force in the law of this country, under the modest name of Statutory Instrument 1991, No 1531? And can you think of anything more likely to ensure that many law-abiding citizens will pass, where the police are concerned, from wariness to hatred?

These appalling provisions originated in an attempt to tidy up the laws pertaining to ownership, storage and use of explosives, but "explosives" within the meaning of the law, does not just mean gelignite or the explosives used for quarrying; the most tenuous (or indeed fraudulent) suspicion that there is a firework left over from Guy Fawkes night, or a cartridge left in a pocket after pheasant-shooting, qualifies for such a raid as I have described. Moreover, although the rules for the owner-



ship of shotguns and the like are already rightly very strict, holders of gun certificates will have to have another certificate to keep their ammunition. But because such people are closely restricted, in practice these monstrous invasions will almost exclusively affect the innocent householder, who has never touched any kind of firearm or explosive in his life.

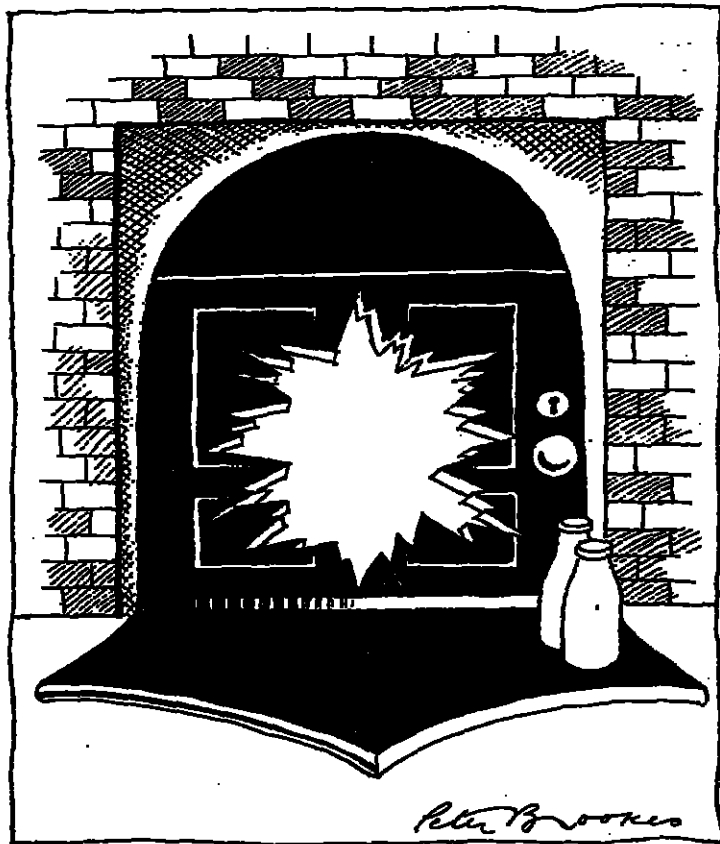
At this point, I may be asked what the police have got to do with it; such matters come under the aegis of the Health and Safety Executive, which, by law, is charged with employing trained inspectors of explosives. The answer is that in an exercise of lunacy extravagant even by the standards of the Home Office, that noisome department has decided to turn policemen into inspectors of explosives; by doing so, the officers will have these outrageous powers over private dwellings as well as, say, mines and factories. No right to a professional adviser? No right to enter? No right for spouse, friend, relative, or visitor to decline interrogation? If we are not in Moscow, where are we — Zaire? Haiti? Iraq?

There is, and has been for some time, a policy on the part of the present government of reducing our rights and increasing our restrictions. Mostly, these come

no such lurid picture as the new powers point would ever be seen. Oh, yes? And when did you last hear of a person in authority, however weak the authority, failing to exercise it? And do you know of any official who, given power over a specific area, did not try to push out the borders of his empire? And how long will it be in this case before he succeeds? O, what joy there will be when a bored policeman can kick your doors in at three o'clock in the morning on the chance of finding a can of petrol used for the lawnmower or a cylinder of Calor Gas for the oven!

Will nobody but me say that some of the provisions of Statutory Instrument 1531, whether widely used in practice or not, would today be recognised in Moscow as an outrage? No right to silence? No right to a professional adviser? No right to enter? No right for spouse, friend, relative, or visitor to decline interrogation? If we are not in Moscow, where are we — Zaire? Haiti? Iraq?

There is, and has been for some time, a policy on the part of the present government of reducing our rights and increasing our restrictions. Mostly, these come



under the heading of Nanny Knows Best. But if Nanny is bad enough, jailers are much worse. A kind of madness has seized our rulers — an obsession which demands that we must be cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in, to saucy doubts and fears. The mark of this frenzy is the government's evasion, wherever possible, of debate; whence the use of the Statutory Instrument. The device is used when it is felt necessary to prevent discussion, and it enables the government to slip huggemugger into law (trailing punishments for defiance), anything so scandalous that it would probably be rejected or at least modified. Only the use of the clumsy parliamentary blunt instrument called a "Prayer" can lead to discussion on it; the government can stifle such a discussion, and in any case can and would ignore it. Which is exactly what the government has done with this truly fearsome extension of police powers, while claiming that it is a matter of improving the care with which explosives are guarded.

Of course such substances must be properly kept and watched, and there must be powers to enforce care on those who hold them. But the powers which this outrageous and surreptitiously inserted leg-

islation would give any policeman who could claim to be an inspector of explosives (even if he thinks that an inspector is a ghost and an explosive a swearword) are, or surely should be, intolerable in a free society; and when I say intolerable I do not mean annoying or unpleasant, but that which cannot and must not be tolerated.

There is no well known phrase more frequently misquoted than Acton's famous dictum about power: well, I would rather submit to having all my teeth pulled out without anaesthetic than misquote, so here it is correctly stated: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". But I quote it (correctly) not to demonstrate my cleverness, but to add to the familiar statement another passage of the letter in which it occurs, but which is rarely cited even by those who get the original bit right, and which indeed is largely unknown. Acton added something as true, as powerful and as necessary as his warning about corruption: it goes, "There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it". If any inspector of explosives today who was a policeman yesterday is reading these words, I beg him to hand his certificate back.

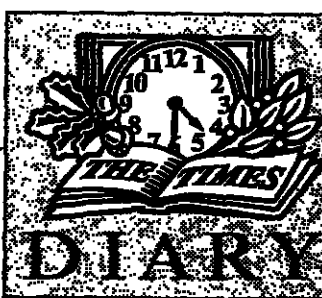
Major looks both ways

AS IF the opinion polls did not give John Major enough to worry about this week as he prepares for his first conference speech as party leader, he also faces the delicate question of how to keep the peace within his own party.

The difficulty is more usually associated with Labour leaders. But with Edward Heath on the platform when Major delivers his speech on Friday, the party leader's staff have accepted the prime minister must pay a fulsome tribute to the man who led the party for ten years before Mrs Thatcher. Heath has waited 16 years to perform the role of elder statesman, which he feels he was never properly able to fulfil while Mrs Thatcher was leader. He is determined to enjoy the opportunity to the full in Blackpool, and Major is prepared to go along with that. Yet at the same time the prime minister must be careful not to offend the unreconstructed Thatcherites watching everything he does and says for signs of backsliding. He will therefore also pay a strong personal tribute to Mrs Thatcher, creating the delicious spectacle of the two arch-enemies taking adjacent places in the modern Tory pantheon.

A party source says: "It has caused enormous debate among the speechwriters but, as the saying goes, there is no alternative. The only other way would be to ignore both of them. But at the first conference since she stood down as leader that would hurt Mrs Thatcher and her followers even more."

The one wrestling most closely with the difficulty is Nicholas True, who has emerged as the prime minister's favourite speechwriter since joining the



Downing Street policy unit under Sarah Hogg. "Unlike Mrs Thatcher, who employed an army of speechwriters from both within and outside the party, John Major is keeping it very much within the policy unit and Nick has been given the chief responsibility," says a party source.

After Pavarotti's rendering of Nussim's drama in last year's World Cup, are football and opera moving still closer? For the first time the Royal Opera House is seeking sponsorship for individual costumes for its production next year of Don Giovanni. Gary Lineker and Paul Gascoigne eat your hearts out: can we now look forward to Leporello in a "McEwan's Lager" vest or the Don in a doublet promoting Richard Branson's Mates?

Red leather

WHILE Labour may be committed to abolishing the House of Lords in its present form, party leaders are nevertheless devoting considerable time to discussing who might be the leader of the upper house under a Labour government. The name on most lips is Baroness Blackstone, who once worked in the Downing Street policy unit under James Callaghan. Some Labour figures are said to be concerned at the prospect of the Lords being led by someone with

no experience of the Commons, arguing that Labour needs a figure in the tradition of Lords Whitelaw and Waddington — Denis Healey being an obvious choice.

Neil Kinnock, however, while keen to draw on Healey's experience, is said to be unenthusiastic about having a political heavyweight of the past in a position to dominate a largely young and inexperienced cabinet. Blackstone's presence would also help with the sensitive issue of swelling the numbers of women in cabinet. Blackstone's supporters say there is a precedent for her appointment, pointing to Baroness Young, who led the Lords in the early 1980s without any Commons experience. Indeed, but hardly an argument of which Keir Hardie would have approved.

McCarthy and friend

WHATEVER their wedding plans may be, John McCarthy and Jill Morrell will spend much of the next year together jointly penning a book on their experiences while McCarthy was a hostage. Mark Lucas, their agent at Peters Fraser and Dunlop, refuses to say whether they are writing the book, but the Diary has confirmed that bidding for the rights started last

week. The book is being sold as an account both of the pair's relationship during McCarthy's first months of freedom and their contrasting stories while he was in Lebanon.

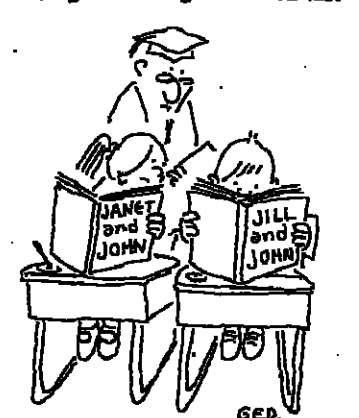
The operation has been a stick one: McCarthy's father Pat approached an agent even before his son was released. An advance of "several hundred thousand" is being confidently talked about, and "at least half a dozen publishers" are expected to bid in the first round before a shortlist is drawn up.

A-Z of verse

AFTER the reporting of a 72-line palindromic poem here last month, a reader recalls — at least partly — a piece of poetic pyrotechnics of parallel perfection. Michael Harner remembers about 50 years ago learning a 26-line verse, every line of which was completely alliterative. The first four lines ran:

An Austrian army awfully arranged
Boldly by battery besieged
Cossack commanders cannonading came
Dealing destruction's devastating doom
He forgets most of the rest, except, given current events in Yugoslavia, the sadly appropriate "K" line: "Kinsmen kills kinsman, kinsmen kinsmen kill". Can anyone help to complete?

The new edition of *The Good Curry Guide*, published next week, claims Britain now has more curry restaurants than the Indian subcontinent. It also reveals that the vast majority of Indian restaurants in Britain are not Indian at all: of more than 7,000 restaurants, fewer than 800 are Indian-owned. About 85 per cent of all Indian restaurants are run by Bangladeshis.





PEACE HATH HER VICTORIES

The proper dismantling of the Soviet military machine has begun. A week after President Bush's unilateral offer to make deep cuts in American tactical and strategic nuclear forces, Moscow reciprocated at the weekend with similar pledges, and a commitment to reduce troop levels apparently thrown in for good measure. In the six weeks since the failure of the Moscow coup, President Yeltsin has assured the West that the new Russia would no longer support a military-industrial complex of the scale that had endured since Stalin. But until President Gorbachev's recent announcement, no specific plan had emerged.

There is a huge difference between the latest American initiative and previous, more cautious arms control agreements, a difference that must have been instantly apparent to Moscow. This time, Mr Bush proposes to reduce not merely the size but the nature of his nuclear arsenal. He promised to halt plans to mount MX long-range missiles on mobile launchers and to stand down strategic bombers from alert. Mr Gorbachev has undertaken to match this promise. The removal of some categories of nuclear weapons from warships will also reduce the mobility which, as Iraq has shown, makes modern missiles almost invulnerable to conventional attack.

Earlier moves towards disarmament had been little more than housekeeping. Both superpowers were continuing to develop the quality of their weapons systems. During the 1980s arms control was used by Moscow to mask the replacement of obsolete weapons with fewer but "smarter" ones. Even the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which became a fact of life for the Soviet Union after the revolutions of 1989, was circumvented. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start), which requires 30 per cent cuts in warheads but would not have prevented more mobile delivery systems, was signed only in July — later than hoped — because until then the Americans did not believe in Soviet good faith. It has yet to be ratified by Congress.

TAKING OVER AEROSPACE

Whitehall has nothing to say officially about the fate of British Aerospace, whose shareholders meet today to approve the company's urgent £432 million rights issue. The company is privately owned, no different in the eyes of government than a corner grocer. Acquisitions are monitored by the Takeover Panel. Big mergers are increasingly policed from Brussels, by the European Commission. Under Margaret Thatcher a habit of silence towards industry descended on Whitehall. That habit remains in Peter Lilley's industry department.

At least in public. Privately, ministers and officials are worried sick that if the rights issue fails, Lord Young's frantic stitching together of BAE of two years ago will unravel, destabilising industry and embarrassing ministers. While the hands-off policy could just hold in the case of the Hanson/ICI saga earlier this summer, it can scarcely be sustained if the rights issue were to fail and Lord Weinstock of GEC scents blood. These are not corner shops. Between them they bestride Britain's engineering, transport, electronics and defence supply. A break-up would affect all British industry.

Defence ministers, natural autarkists, would like to preserve BAE as a single British defence supplier. Hands off also seems unattractive when a company employs 148,000 and an election is imminent. If BAE gets its rights issue, it will doubtless slim its workforce. Sir Graham Day is no pushover. But the process would be less painful than in the context of a close relationship with GEC.

Least attractive of all to the government would be a foreign invasion, with Thompson CSF of France or perhaps an American firm moving in, breaking up and closing down. Rover, BAE's car subsidiary, may be protected from any disposal by the five-year safeguard insisted on by the government at the time of its sale in 1988. Of greater practical value would be the reluctance of

The August coup was in part an attempt by the Communist party's most powerful ally, the military-industrial elite, to preserve its access to as much as one third of Soviet domestic output. In the aftermath of the collapse, not merely of the coup, but of the Soviet system, Mr Bush found himself dealing with a plurality of authorities. Mr Gorbachev was still the man at the end of the hotline, but he was no longer the man with whom the political buck stopped. A new consensus on policies such as defence and foreign affairs is emerging, articulated and influenced by the Soviet president, but no longer subordinate to him.

For the Americans, the priority now is to reach an understanding — in advance of formal treaties — with the political and operational controllers of the Soviet nuclear forces. Washington and Moscow agree on the need to eliminate as many as possible lest they fall into the wrong hands. Russia thus needs thorough and impartial verification to prevent arsenals from being dispersed to the Middle East or elsewhere. Co-operation from republican and central authorities alike will be required to prevent such proliferation. A world market in surplus East European conventional weapons already exists; how much larger might be a Soviet military auction?

For all that, the Gorbachev proposals are the best news on arms control for many years. They confirm that the triumph of Russian nationalism over Soviet communism means more security for the rest of the world, not less, provided the West shows confidence in the new regime, as Mr Bush has done. By offering the post-communist Russian leaders an arms deal, the American president appears to be retracting his earlier doubts about republican nationalism. He is right to do so. Whether Mr Gorbachev survives another year or two as Soviet leader should no longer matter much to westerners. What should matter is that the new Russia should be encouraged to continue on its chosen path of peace and disarmament.

anyone to tackle Honda, the Japanese company which now holds 20 per cent of Rover and which exerts a far more than 20 per cent influence over its activities.

Crises like this exert a devastating magnetism over politicians. Last week, BAE was reported to be whipping up support at the Labour party conference. If Labour is no longer a trade union party, obsessed with job protection, it should resist such pressure.

Ministers too must struggle to remain silent. In such matters, the slope is slippery. Today a minister gives an off-the-record hint. Tomorrow the pressure to repeat it publicly is irresistible. And if the rights issue goes badly, surely the national interest requires that the Treasury step in?

In the particular case of BAE, powerful arguments should tell against intervention. Here is a company that has got into trouble. Though partly the fault of the recession and the waning Soviet threat, it is also the fault of part-time leadership for which former chairman Roland Smith has now paid the price. Moreover the company is heavily involved in the defence field. The prospect of contraction that faced steel in the 1980s faces defence supply in the 1990s. Government can, if it wishes, slow down contraction by generous handouts, of the sort the Tories excoriated under Labour governments. But contraction cannot be stopped.

Investors have a stake in BAE. They are being asked to take a bigger one. They will only do so if they are convinced that profit lies therein. Since an unprofitable BAE is of little use to anybody, this is the least worst basis on which the company's future should be settled. There is a case for greater government involvement in industry: in sponsoring efforts to win international orders in markets that are far from free, notably those across the English Channel. But such intervention ought to follow reorganisation; it should not precede it.

RECYCLING THE BRITISH

It is hard to be a good green in Britain. In Germany, the weekly trip to the bottle bank is a Lord's Day observance for most families. In America people bundle up newspapers, often as fat as books, for the Scouts to take away for recycling. Good Japanese housewives sort their rubbish into two piles, burnable and unburnable.

In Britain, glass, paper, old clothes and aluminium cans are all thrown into the same dustbin, thence to be tipped on a smelly dump. Recycling just does not pay. The British produce the wrong sort of rubbish: too many coloured bottles, and not enough paper to compete with the cheaper virgin paper from Scandinavia. According to a German survey published today, Britain dumps or burns 95 per cent of its rubbish: the highest in Europe except for Greece.

All this is dispiriting. Nothing so soothes the morning-after guilt at past consumption of alcohol as smashing the empty Chablis bottles in vast, green echoing containers. Each bottle deposited, the conscience argues, saves the nation energy and resources. The more drunk, the more saved. Likewise with newspapers: the more sent to recycling plants, the fewer trees felled to feed our appetite for bingo and gossip. There is a whiff of wartime austerity about the process.

Noble intentions are undermined by hard economics. Britain drinks mainly from imported brown and green bottles, but exports its own nectar in colourless clear glass. The amber tipple would lose its glow if whisky bottles were a mud-green. Gin from

brown bottles lacks the sophistication of its cool transparency. Not enough people think it worth taking jam jars to the bottle banks and technology has still not perfected a way of clarifying coloured glass. As for paper, most of the efforts of the environmentally-motivated go up in smoke.

The European Commission, that great initiator of new customs, is about to change our ways. Next month a directive will instruct each country to recycle 60 per cent of its packaging, rising to 90 per cent by the year 2000. This particular idea is unlikely to catch on immediately, judging from the experience of Japan. There gift wrapping so swaddles everything from miniature head-phones to prime cuts of steak in paper, card, frills and ribbons that opening every item is like playing pass the parcel. Japanese environmentalists have begun with anti-wrapping campaigns; it will be years before they can curb the annual discarding of televisions, furniture, clothes and gadgets.

The domestic government has so far kept out of the British dustbin. There are no inspectors to police the sorting of rubbish. But nor are there incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to turn newspapers into peat, manure into fuel and old bedsteads into railway lines. Indeed there are few British garbologists, as American waste specialists term themselves. Foreign experience shows that the government's recent "green" white paper is tame stuff. But what greater humiliation than to leave it to Brussels to teach us to be better householders?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Thatcher peerage and need to alter political culture

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, You report (October 3) that "the way has been cleared for Mrs Thatcher to become Countess of Finchley". What a sad ending to a remarkable political career.

The fact is that Mrs Thatcher, no matter the controversy she stirred in Britain during her premiership, is recognised around the globe for her attempt to modernise this old country in order to make it fit to compete in the world. Thus, it is all the more bewildering that such a meritocrat — and such an advocate of enterprise — should seek to join, and thus to dignify, the House of Lords, an embarrassingly anachronistic institution which stands for all the opposite values.

In a sense, her decision to go to the Lords represents a wider social problem in Britain. Evidently, there remains a need — even amongst the most independent and self-confident people in our society — to drape themselves in ermine and to see acceptance at a medieval court as some kind of self-validating act.

Such a need, it is often argued, is quite harmless. Yet, it is also a sign of how very difficult it is going to be to fully modernise our political culture.

Here we are in the midst of a world-wide process of democratisation, about to become a full member of a federal Europe, even beginning to talk seriously about constitutional reform at home — yet, so many of our opinion-formers still cling, almost willfully, to the values and attitudes of our feudal past.

It really is time we decided to grow up, to put to rest our feudal theme-park of a constitution and to realise that we are way out of line with every other modern democratic nation in retaining a legislature in which heredity is a qualification. Former prime ministers — particularly those who have spent their time in office trying to drag Britain into the future — should give a lead.

Sincerely yours,
STEPHEN HASELER,
2 Thackeray House,
Ansell Street, Kensington, W8.

Principles of freedom

From Professor Milton Friedman

Sir, I do not wish, nor am I closely enough informed of the details, to become involved in the dispute that has arisen about the Institute of Economic Affairs (reports August 27, 28; leading article, September 12). I can, however, comment on the philosophy and performance of the institute itself.

The vision and public spirit of the late Antony Fisher led him to found the IEA in 1957. He, together with Ralph Harris and Arthur Seldon, who ran it for the next three decades, deserve major credit for transforming the intellectual climate of opinion in Britain.

Had the IEA never existed, Margaret Thatcher might still have become prime minister, but the reforms she presided over would not have been politically feasible, and most likely not even part of her platform. Seldon does a country, to plagiarise Winston Churchill, owe so much to so few — and it is not irrelevant that Antony Fisher was also one of the Churchill "few".

The IEA was successful because it

did not seek short-term influence. It maintained a firm policy of sticking to well defined principles, presenting ideas conforming to those principles regardless of their apparent political feasibility or their acceptability to current vested interests.

High intellectual quality, firm and clearly stated principles, absence of narrow political partisanship, stress on the long run, and vigorous but fair exposition — these were the hallmarks of the institute under the leadership of Harris and Seldon. And these are the qualities that enabled it to play such a vital role in the intellectual life of Britain.

The IEA's influence has not been confined to the United Kingdom. Its publications and the able group of scholars who became associated with it contributed greatly to the change in the intellectual climate of opinion around the world.

More concretely, a large number of similar institutes have been established in many countries, under the stimulus of their example and Fisher's direct assistance and encouragement. These institutes have disseminated publications and ideas developed at the IEA. They

From Mr Stephen Yakeley

Sir, If the justification of hereditary peerages is to provide a perpetual living memorial to the peer of first creation, then surely the most suitable way for future generations to remember our first woman prime minister is for her new title to pass through the female line to her daughter.

This would also result in a more even distribution of honours in the Thatcher family as her son will inherit his father's baronetcy.

Yours etc.,
STEPHEN YAKELEY,
15 College Cross,
Islington, N1.
October 4.

From Mr Peter Sieber

Sir, It is very sad to watch Mrs Thatcher snatch ridicule from the grasp of greatness.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SIEBER,
2 North Grove, N6,
October 3.

have been highly successful in producing a receptive climate of opinion for the principles of human and economic freedom that the IEA championed.

I have never had the pleasure of meeting or talking with Graham Mather, but I simply want to add my voice to others in urging him to address the IEA's long-standing avoidance of even the suspicion of party political deference.

More important, the current dispute offers me an occasion to pay tribute to the intellectual and moral leadership displayed by Fisher, Harris and Seldon, along with the late John Wood, for these many years. They have been pillars of strength, a nearly invincible legion, in the battle that so many of us have fought to limit the depredations of bureaucratic control and extend the area of human and economic freedom.

Sincerely yours,
MILTON FRIEDMAN
(Senior Research Fellow),
Hoover Institution,
Stanford,
California 94305-6010, USA.
October 3.

Soviet psychiatry

From the National Director of Christian Solidarity International

Sir, As sponsors of Baroness Cox's visit to the Soviet Union to investigate psychiatric abuse of orphans we believe her findings (report, September 27) will positively affect the lives of many thousands of Soviet children.

Your report of the recommendations to the Soviet medical authorities, and to those in the West who are also concerned, highlighted the systematic abuse and Lady Cox's team recommended the following measures: a clear separation of the diagnosis of mental illness from learning difficulties; the review of incorrect diagnoses of "oligophrenia" (a Soviet term referring both to retardation and children with common learning difficulties); provision for the rehabilitation of victims; an end to the use of inappropriate drugs and to the exploitation of children as cheap labour; the promotion of fostering; new legislation to protect children; greater accountability of the psychiatric profession; and Western help with training and exchanges.

We hope and trust that those responsible for Soviet orphanages will take Lady Cox's findings seriously. We aim to lead efforts to improve the cause of Soviet children.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON GEORGE,
National Director,
Christian Solidarity International,
49b Leigh Hall Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

to a share of adult education, I would add two suggestions: that in this session of Parliament, the Education Act should be amended changing the status of adult education from permissive to statutory; and that adult education establishments should be allowed to opt for independent status.

When Kenneth Baker described London's adult education as "The jewel in the crown", he knew that it had taken 120 years to reach a standard which was admired throughout the Western world. These structures and traditions are now being decimated in the worst examples of education vandalism since the destruction of the grammar schools. Kenneth Clarke must act now and stop this primitive savagery while there is yet something worth saving.

Yours etc.,
R. M. H. BARNES,
Lista da Correos, Casa Correos,
Avenue General Franco,
Arrecife, Lanzarote.

disappointed by the shortcomings of modern medical science.

Whatever the royal blandishments, it seems inconsistent that the BMA should be so liberal in its approval of its members involvement in obscure and dubious practices, and at the same time adopt such a resolute stand against quite sensible attempts to improve the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully,
D. L. CROSBY
(Consultant surgeon),
South Glamorgan Health Authority,
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park, Cardiff,
South Glamorgan,
October 2.

Value of prayer for those in need

From the Reverend Canon Allen Willett

Sir, One of the main points of Dr Cohn-Sherbok's article ("Hostages and the rewards of prayer", September 30) is that, since God is omniscient and aware of future events, no amount of prayer could alter what he knows will happen, including the capture and release of hostages.

Dr Cohn-Sherbok has omitted to take into account the fact that God also knows beforehand that prayer will be offered and in his mind will have responded and planned accordingly.

There are many instances in the Hebrew Scriptures where God encourages the prayer of entreaty, for example, in Genesis 20:7 God said to Abimelech in a dream

... return the man's (Abraham's) wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live ...

In Jeremiah 29:12 God, through Jeremiah, says to the people of Judah exiled in Babylon

Then you will call upon me and come to pray to me, and I will listen to you.

There is a mystery about prayer that we cannot completely understand but this should not deter anyone from offering prayer of entreaty for those who are in need. The strong tradition of such prayer in the Jewish and Christian communities is based on scripture and personal experience.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN WILLETT,
4 Abbotts Grove, Werrington,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
September 30.

From the Reverend Canon H. C. F. Copey

Sir, Dr Cohn-Sherbok acts as if that man is predestined to act wrong as God has ordained.

How different is the God revealed by Christ. We are to call Him "Father"; we see the best human parent as a pointer to the character of God. Both human and divine may know the capabilities of their children, but not how those capabilities will be used. "Thy will be done" may well be the ideal prayer for both Jew and Christian, yet for us a wide field of choice remains.

Yours faithfully,
H. C. F. COPEY,
Town House, South Pallant,
Chichester, West Sussex,
October 1.

From Mr Robert W. Turnbull

Sir, The late Archbishop William Temple, I recall, made two points which would seem to be relevant to the rabbi's article. One was to the effect that prayer is not an attempt to use God for our purposes, but a request that He will use us for His; the second that it is legitimate to pray for whatever it is legitimate to desire.

Yours etc.,
ROBERT W. TURNBULL,
As from: 4 Higher Mill Lane,
Buckfast, South Devon.

From the Reverend E. Philip Schofield

Sir, The rabbi's plea that we should pray, "Thy will be done", is timely and challenging. I recall as a student praying this prayer during world war two and being severely reprimanded by several in my congregation because I had not prayed for victory!

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP SCHOFIELD,
8 Priory Close,
Penyfford, Chester,
September 30.

From the Reverend Canon M. Vonberg

Sir, Enjoying the love-filled experience of requests and responses is enhanced by parental ignorance. Cannot God, then, deliberately limit his own knowledge so as to share in similar enjoyment?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL VONBERG,
Parish of All Saints,
3 Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey,
October 2.

From Mr Donald Christie

Sir, Another rabbi, some may think a wiser one, told his followers: "Ask and it will be given".

Yours,
DONALD CHRISTIE,
18 St John's Road,
Poole, Dorset,
October 1.

Light fantastic

From Elinor Wheeler

Sir, I do not agree with Craig Brown when he says "... and moreover, October 1) that daddy long-legs are sloven and bored with life. The one in my room tap-dances in the lamp shade when I try to get to sleep.

Yours faithfully,
ELINOR WHEELER (aged 8),
Summerhill, Chapel Close,
Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, Gwent,
October 2.

Harder to remember

From Mr Peter Sallis

Sir, Never mind about losing your memory, what about losing your socks? My present count is eight singles; that is, half-pairs.

They never go out unless I am wearing them. My wife is innocent, not to say indifferent. The washing machine is empty.

Where are they?
Yours etc.,
PETER SALLIS,
Garnock Club, WC2,
October 3.

Banks and inflation

From Professor S. F. Bush

Sir, It is a pity that Sir Peter Hordern (October 1) should subscribe to the view that central banks control inflation through their supply of the currency.

The massive inflation which we are only just recovering from was not due to the Bank of England's printing a large over-supply of bank notes, but to the vast expansion of credit by the commercial banks. This expansion of credit in 1987-9, expressed as a proportion of GDP, more or less accounts for the inflation rates of 8 to 11 per cent during those years.

A central bank *per se*, whether independent or not, is almost

Role of advice services

From the Director of the Legal Action Group

Sir, Your leader (October 1) correctly encourages the credit industry to take responsibility for the advice so often required by its debtors. However, your more general argument that advice services should seek greater sponsorship from business requires more examination.

Advice services provide a vital role in educating citizens in their rights and obligations. For example, the largest category of advice given by almost all generalist advice agencies relates to social security and the community charge.

It is, however, difficult to see precisely why business should fund advice on a pensioner's claim for attendance allowance, an unemployed person's replacement of a

lost giro or a student's liability for poll tax. This is a responsibility which can properly be placed on the community at large.

The reluctance of central and local government in relation to resources should be countered by the imposition of the appropriate statutory duties, not by suggesting that advice agencies follow the chimera of alternative funding.

Advice should be seen as the first step of an integrated network of publicly-funded legal services that begins with a volunteer worker in an advice agency or bureau and ends with Queen's Counsel in the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SMITH, Director,
The Legal Action Group,
242-244 Pentonville Road, N1,
October 3.

Funding adult classes

From Mrs Iris Hardy

Sir, With reference to your article, "Adult sums that do not add up" (Education, September 30), I would like to point out to Anne Risman (Principal of Richmond Adult Education College) and those who support government funding for hobby courses, that they are asking the tax and community charge payers who include the poorest people in the land to subsidise a vociferous minority of people who want to learn flower-arranging, bridge, yoga, pottery, etc.

Nice as these hobbies are, and though she says "some craft students are executives who need release from stress", I cannot understand why other people should be called upon to subsidise them.

Would it not be fairer to charge the full economic fees for these courses and give rebates to those who genuinely need to do them but cannot afford to pay the full cost,

rather than subsidise all students regardless of means? Should not some consideration be given to those who are forced to pay this subsidy as well as those who receive it?

Yours faithfully,
IRIS HARDY,
Windrush, South Huish,
Nr Kingsbridge, Devon.

From Mr R. M. H. Barnes

Sir, It is good news that the millions of part-time adult students have managed to persuade the government to continue funding their classes. It is not reassuring to learn from Kenneth Clarke that the disbursement of this extra cash will remain in the hands of local councilors and town hall bureaucrats (report, September 25); an almost certain guarantee that very little, if any, will be used to support adult classes.

To Sir Rhodes Boyson's admirable proposal for a charter legally guaranteeing a citizen's rights

'Healing arts'

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, You have again given quite extensive coverage in your columns to the possible virtues of the "healing arts" (Health, September 26) — otherwise known as alternative, complementary and holistic medicine. You also quote a BMA view that "... it's good for qualified doctors to undertake these treatments because they go through a well-regulated teaching programme".

Is this view to be conveyed to the General Medical Council with the recommendation that appropriate courses of instruction are added to the medical curriculum? If so, it will

certainly conflict with current medical teaching which pays high regard to objectivity and the truthfulness of therapeutic claims as judged by audit and peer review.

Medical students are now quite properly taught to be holistic in their assessment of patients' needs, and to recognise that alternative treatments may be complementary. Unfortunately, these terms have now been hijacked by self-styled practitioners to obtain credibility in attracting the attention of those

disappointed by the shortcomings of modern medical science.

Whatever the royal blandishments, it seems inconsistent that the BMA should be so liberal in its approval of its members involvement in obscure and dubious practices, and at the same time adopt such a resolute stand against quite sensible attempts to improve the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully,
D. L. CROSBY
(Consultant surgeon),
South Glamorgan Health Authority,
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park, Cardiff,
South Glamorgan,
October 2.

Eroticism for the masses

THISTHAM NEWTON

History man: Bando Tamasaburo V, one of the stars of *Grand Kabuki*, is from an ancestral line of Kabuki actors

THEATRE

Grand Kabuki

Lyttelton

REDGRAVE Jemma III is, as it happens, currently to be seen in *Our Town* at the Shaftesbury, and Olivier Richard II is about to stage a revival of Graham Greene's *Compliments* at Watford. But no British performer can trace his or her theatrical ancestry back as far as the great Kabuki actors, here represented by Nakamura Kankuro V and Bando Tamasaburo V, the adopted son of the late Morita Kanya XIV. Such dynastic links, combined with the conscientious conservatism of the Sochiku Company, mean that much of the long evening on offer at the Lyttelton is not so different from those enjoyed by Japanese shopkeepers or silversmiths in the 17th century.

Of course, this brings with it a pretty obvious danger. In the age of Madonna and Michael Jackson it is hard to see Kabuki as what it seems often to have been, an erotic entertainment for those not posh enough to patronise Noh plays. Perhaps the art we are being asked to admire is that of mummification or taxidermy, not living theatre. Yet when Nakamura is transformed by sexual betrayal into a raging thunderbolt in a flame-erupted gown, or when he becomes a ferocious, clattering jungle animal, trailing white whiskers that stretch to his hips and a mane that flaps against his heels — well, we most emphatically do not feel we are visiting a museum.

Of the three exemplary pieces staged here, the most substantial is the first, a tale of a courtesan dispatched to seduce the doctor-priest who has seen fit to imprison a rain god. She achieves this to some amusingly plinking comments from the simulating translator: "She asks him why he has stopped massaging her, and he

says he has touched something interesting." But the acting, as always, is defter, subtler and a lot less realistic. Bando Tamasaburo, male specialist in female roles, flutters his hands and emits high, quavering wails. Nakamura Kankuro, the stricken priest, lines slip a great squawk, culminating in the kind of dying gurgle that presumably signals there is no future for him except as an aggrieved thunderbolt. The musicians click and croon. If this was ever

pornography, it was pornography of the softest, most delicate kind.

The two following pieces are sluttier and virtually plotless. In one, Nakamura begins as a dancing girl and, after an interlude in which his own small sons frolic round the stage disguised as butterflies, becomes the rampaging beast with the monster mane. The other is a long, undulating and rather beautiful dance by Bando, who sports kimonos variously red, violet and silvery-grey as he traces the

decline of a lovelorn woman and her transformation into a ghostly heron. The stories may sometimes be a bit whimsical for western tastes, but the consistently gorgeous costumes and the performers' understated skills ensure that the eyes do not wander. Anybody wanting to discover Kabuki would do well to take a trip to the National sometime in the next two weeks.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

Orin

Mermaid

JAPAN'S theatre, like its commerce and industry, is omnivorously synthetic. Traditional forms may flourish, but the Chijikinki Theatre Company borrows elements from the cinema and stage of both east and west to produce a boldly flexible stylistic blend associated in London more with the opera house than the theatre.

Though contemporaneous with the first world war — the play ends in 1921 — the action deals with the Japanese tradition of the goza, the blind girls trained to sing and dance (here to a

recurring song that bears a fleeting resemblance to *Auld Lang Syne*) who travelled through the country like strolling players in organised troupes with a rigid discipline entailing exclusion for misbehaviour. Orin is one such outcast. Seduced when plied with sake, she wanders through misadventures that the programme notes recount as *The Perils of Pauline* crossed with the elliptical inconsequentiality of an opera synopsis. The mysterious stranger who protects her from unwanted sexual attentions tells her he is a clog maker; at which, the programme cryptically informs us, her heart warms to him.

Far from inviting a deconstructivist analysis of footwork fetishism, the play quickly grabs attention and suspends disbelief. The author,

Tsutomu Mizukami, is one of Japan's most distinguished novelists and playwrights.

The experience of director Koichi Kimura ranges from Shakespeare and the Jacobean via Edward Albee and Tennessee Williams to Arnold Wesker. His production of *The Great Doctor Yabuhara* — touching, incidentally, on some of the themes found in *Orin* — was an award-winning success in Edinburgh in 1990.

Orin is a more intriguing production than *Yabuhara*, not least for its mixture of styles. The raised stage uses a central revolve decked with sparsely evocative scenery (a stylised tree with a right-angled lattice of branches, a ring of bare posts to suggest prison) and backed by what variously appears as a frozen waterfall, a moonlit

cascade of foliage, or by daylight, a mass of multi-coloured streamers and rags. The action moves from fairground to police station to bathhouse where Orin and her fugitive protector are besieged by police as in any film noir.

As played by Ineko Arima, Orin is too cheerful for film noir. Prone to rolling gleefully on her back and wagging her legs in the air, she likes a drink, she enjoys men. Free from self-pity, hope turning to resignation, she ends the play pulling the clog maker's cart on her journey to join her dead friend. The walk-like perkiness of Giulietta Masina in early Fellini gives way, in a slightly too calculated reference, to Mother Courage.

MARTIN HOYLE

CONCERTS

LPO/Tennstedt

CBSO/Rattle

MAGNIFICENT and uncomfortable, and magnificent partly because it was so uncomfortable, Klaus Tennstedt's performance of the "Eroica" Symphony with the London Philharmonic last week at Festival Hall was a real bracing Beethovenian restoration.

It seemed to blow through the system with quick efficacy, not just because many of the speeds were fast, and certainly not just because the first-movement repeat was cut: the apparent brevity was much more a matter of decisiveness, weight and connectedness, of a robust grip on everything that was going on.

Rhythm is important here. Tennstedt showed how a lot of the energy of the massive first movement is essentially rhythmic, coming from the frictions of syncopation, or from the tensions that arise when the basic pulse is suddenly halved or doubled. And yet this was far from being a

metronomic performance: the might was invested in the music, not in the beat, and in the finale there was a marvellous brave freedom of movement, to which the players responded as if they were playing chamber music.

A certain waywardness but rightness also marks Tennstedt's entry into Beethoven's sound world, a certain roughness in the ensemble, a refusal just to please (though pleasing moments there certainly were, especially from the clarinets). Inevitably in this symphony, the horns were at the heart of it: a full sextet in the braver and bolder passages, giving a tremendous lead, and an agile threesome in the scherzo's trio, with the quick low notes amusingly tucked into place.

This was humour and gravity, but just ruggedly sound and unselfing. The companion piece was the Triple Concerto, and it was odd to have the spectacle of Tennstedt meekly dabbling in chords to accompany the long-spanning garrulities of the soloists. Maybe the performance would have been galvanised if Martha Argerich had not withdrawn from it. But maybe not: Olli Mustonen was a likeable, rangy

replacement, seemingly waiting for the music to challenge him more. Mischka Maisky, tired of waiting, squeezed it for the utmost in expressiveness, and put his tuning at risk with his extreme vibrato. Gidon Kremer was the most persuasive way: military exactitude in the performance of brilliant but not very demanding exercises, and always an ironic smile.

The rough edges of Tennstedt's Beethoven would perhaps have struck a chord with Simon Rattle, who spoke last week about the need not to tame and polish this composer. Later this month there will be opportunities to hear Rattle's Beethoven when he accompanies Brendel in the complete piano concertos in Birmingham and London, but last week, in a characteristic bifocal programme with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sir Simon's attention was on Schubert (the Ninth Symphony) and Weill.

This Weill part of the programme was a kind of Symphony Hall cabaret, the songs acted out alongside Rattle and his ensemble (including a wildly waiting but also beautiful, distant

electric guitar in "Surabaya Johnny" and a rich-voiced saxophone). After an abstract of *Happy End* in three songs, with Elise Koss getting every word of her bitter-sensuous recrimination across, despite Benjamin Luxon seeming a bit too pleasant to deserve it all, these two were joined by Amedeo Gussone, Damon Evans, John Graham-Hall and Nicholas Folwell in the *Mahogany Songspiel*.

Making this suite of songs into a coherent dramatic entity would be hard, but Stephen Langridge, the producer, contrived a fairly appropriate journey from childhood enthusiasm into disillusionment, a journey undertaken by four boys in blue boiler suits and two girls in pink nurse outfits. On growing up they discovered that life is not just a matter of opening Christmas presents: the biggest parcel turned out to contain a carpark. "Pay and Display" fixture. Maybe Weill-Brecht ought to be angrier, but the self-disgusted survivors of the music were registering strongly enough.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Arts features, page 13

NEW RELEASES

THE COMMITMENTS (15): Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a mostly amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

DEKALOG PARTS 3 AND 4 (15): Taut, seductive tales of human deception and longing for love from Krzysztof Kieslowski's Ten Commandments cycle. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

GALAHAD OF EVEREST (15): Brian Steward climbs Everest in a tale of glacial mountaineering. Graham Mallory. Moderate documentary which belies where it will end up as Christmas — on television. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

JULIA HAS TWO LOVERS (15): One lover is Julia's husband; the other, a stranger, is a man who lives on the phone. Flawless independent comedy. Director, Buster Keaton. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

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OPERA & BALLET

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PROSPERO'S BOOKS (15): Peter Greenaway's variation on *The Tempest*, with John Cleese's Prospero staging Shakespeare's last through a jungle of eye-popping images. Brilliant but daunting. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

UNDER SUSPICION (15): Liam Neeson as a private investigator implicated in murder with a dramatic twist. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

THUNDERBOLTS F.A.B. — THE NEXT GENERATION (15): The next stage version of cult television show, performed by two actors wearing space suits. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES (15): A tribute to the blues. A collection of blues songs. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

WAITING FOR GODOT (15): A play by Samuel Beckett. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

WHEN SHE DANCED (15): A film about a dancer. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

LONG RUNNERS (15): A film about runners. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

SWELL PARTY (15): A film about a party. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

TANGO AT THE END OF WINTER (15): A film about tango. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

THE KNOCKERS (15): A film about knockers. (MCA Home Video) (VHS £14.95).

THREE BRIDES ALIGHTING ON A FIELD (15

CHARACTER

Onscreen

- 6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
- 12.00 **Right to Reply** Includes a discussion on Wednesday's *Dispatches* about a sinister organisation including policemen and paramilitaries that plots the deaths of suspected IRA supporters in Northern Ireland (Ir). (Telex)
- 12.30 **Business Daily** introduced by Susannah Simons
- 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series
- 2.00 **Film: The Lamp Still Burns** (1943, b/w) starring Rosamund John, Godfrey Tearle and Stewart Granger. Decent, low-key second world war morale booster about life in a British hospital as experienced by a hardy young nurse directed by Maurice Elvey
- 3.40 **Film: Enchanted Island** (1950). A travelogue about the South Sea island of Samoa, much loved by Robert Louis Stevenson
- 4.00 **Lands More Muck and Magic** Organic gardening series presented by Rebecca Pow and Alan Gear. This afternoon they are joined by Thelma Barlow (Mavis Wilton in *Coronation Street*), a keen organic gardener (Ir)
- 4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. Quick-fire general knowledge quiz hosted by William G. Stewart (s)
- 5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Dublin's music and chat show hosted by Gay Byrne
- 6.00 **The Wonder Years** Award-winning American comedy series about growing up in the late 1960s, starring Fred Savage
- 6.30 **The Henderson Kids**. Australian drama series that launched the career of Kylie Minogue
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Telex) Weather
- 6.00 **Brookside** Episode 999 of the drama serial set in a Merseyside close. The police investigate the disappearance of Sue and Daniel Sullivan. (Telex) (s)
- 8.30 **Inspector Morse: The Last Enemy** The third of a live-case series for the cerebral policeman which begins when a body is discovered in a park close to the one close to its identity, is a possible connection with one of the colleges. Starring John Thaw, Kevin Whately, Barry Foster and Michael Aldridge (Ir). (Telex)
- 10.30 **E.N.G.** The final episode of the punchy Canadian drama set in a television news station. The journalists' jobs are on the line when a conglomerate tries to buy Channel 10 (Telex) (s)



Contesting both their mental and physical agility (7.00pm)




Photo-opportunity: AWP party leader, Terreblanche (11.30pm)

11.30 The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife.

● **CHOICE:** Nick Broomfield's documentary, first shown in April and given an honourable mention at the recent Prix Italia, is an irreverent journey to South Africa in search of Eugene Terreblanche. As the head of the militant white AWP party, Terreblanche regards both President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela as versions of the Devil. Broomfield tries to arrange an interview but Terreblanche plays hard to get. Stood up several times, Broomfield tries another approach, making friends with Terreblanche's driver, J. P. Meyer, who proves to be quite a character. So does Mrs Meyer, a nurse who gives out condoms to the blacks apparently without incurring AWP wrath. As a running gag, the pursuit of the fearsome, ranting Terreblanche eventually starts to wear thin but there is much macabre fun along the way (r)

Ends at 12.50am

League Football 2.00pm Waters
Scottish League Football 5.00 S

900 Neuburns 6.30 NFL Football 7.00 WWF Wrestling
 7.00 Euronews 7.30 Euro Football 8.00 Italian League
 Football 11.00 World of Adventure 12.00
 News24 12.30am WWF Wrestling

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
 2.00pm Cycling 3.30 Equestrian Steeple
 Chase 4.00 Tennis: Toulouse Open 5.30 Italy
 6.00 Euro News 6.30 Euro Football 7.00 Italy
 Cross Off Road 8.00 American 9.00 Motor
 Cycling 9.30 Eurosport News 10.00 Football
 10.30 Golf 11.00 Kickboxing 12.00 Golf
 Catchmen World Championships 12.30am
 Eurosport News

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
 7.00am Euronews 7.30 Basketball 8.30
 Desert Jaws Superbike 9.30 Eurospics 10.00
 Football 11.00 Golf 11.30 American Football
 12.00 Football 1.00pm Eurospics 2.00pm
 Sports Car Championships 3.00 Sport of


Golden Podium Award 7.00 Fun TV
 Wundersun 7.30 News 8.00 Invasi-Ten
 8.00 Fight Night at the Forum 9.30 Johnny
 Walker Cup: Match of the Week 10.30 Johnny
 Walker Cup Report 11.40 Eurosport Golf
 Tour 11.40 Spanish Football Highlights

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
 7.00am Euronews 7.30 Japan Sports Car
 Championships 8.30 Rugby League 9.30
 Euronews 10.00 Rugby World Cup 1991
 Report 7.30 11.00 Eurosport Golf
 European Tour 12.00 Sport of France
 12.30pm Johnny Walker Golf Report 12.45
 Rugby World Cup: New Zealand v USA 1991
 The following programmes are subject to
 alterations: 2.45 Rugby World Cup: England
 v Italy 5.00 Desert Jaws Superbike 6.00
 Spanish Football Highlights 6.30 London
 7.00 Pro Superbike 7.30 Johnny Walker Golf
 Report 7.30 11.00 Eurosport Golf
 V: Fi 8.30 Rugby World Cup Highlights
 10.30 Live Matchroom Pro Box

110

home turned him
to drink,
£25 got him off it.



Drink helped Peter to cope with being neglected by his parents. A £25 donation to us helped a lot more. It paid towards a visit by an NSPCC Child Protection Officer to his home, and helped protect him from further suffering. Every donation we receive goes towards protecting one more child. That's why we desperately need yours.

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I enclose my Cheque/Postal Order for: ☐ £75 ☐ £50
☐ £25 ☐ _____ I would like to donate by
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Send your donation to, Christopher Brown, Ref 921521 NSPCC
FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1QQ. Or ring 071-242 1626

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

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Iraqi nuclear waste is destined for Dounreay

By KERRY GILL

A FIRST shipment of Iraqi nuclear waste could arrive in Britain by the end of this month and is likely to be sent to the Dounreay nuclear reprocessing complex in Caithness, it emerged yesterday.

More than 50lb of irradiated uranium, originally from the Soviet Union and used by President Saddam Hussein for nuclear research, is believed to be destined for Dounreay. Documents obtained by the *Sunday Mail* newspaper indicate that Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, will comply with the plan if John Wake-

Duchess shreds her secrets

By JOE JOSEPH

PERHAPS the tabloid press has been too harsh on the Duchess of York and her need to fight against flab. If, now and then, you notice an odd bulge about her, it may be nothing more mysterious than a paper shredder.

The shredder apparently goes everywhere the duchess goes to make sure that personal information does not fall into the wrong hands. She destroys all her love letters from Prince Andrew. She has also given up keeping a diary. She fears that details from both might be published other than in her own memoirs.

"Andrew used to write me wonderful letters from ship. When he goes to sea for six months he writes good letters, but I haven't kept them," she told David Frost yesterday on *ITV*. "I did for a bit, in the bank, but then I thought the bank would be robbed. I got too frightened that some of my entries might end up in rather the wrong places, so I decided to forget them."

The duchess said she was horrified when she sometimes picked up a newspaper to find that they knew when she got up and what she did. "I think it is better there are little facts that are unknown," she said, adding how important it was for the family to have somewhere to be themselves.

ham, the energy secretary, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, believe it would be in "the UK's overall interests".

The move, reported by the *Sunday Mail* and another newspaper, *Scotland on Sunday*, was said to be part of the £13 million post-Gulf war clean-up. The UN's International Atomic Energy Agency is handling disposal of the waste, and Britain and France have joined forces to bid for the contract. The plan would cause a political storm in Scotland, where the Scottish National party has campaigned against the dumping of nuclear waste.

A spokesman for the IAEA, based in Vienna, said yesterday the British and French governments had each agreed to accept about half of the fuel. The French would take all that supplied by themselves and some Soviet-sourced fuel, while the British would take the bulk of that from the Soviet Union. Dounreay was the favoured site.

He said that a team would leave on Wednesday for Baghdad and would begin work at the site of the two reactors, about 18 miles from the capital, by the end of this week. The sites suffered extensive damage during the Gulf war from allied bombing.

A Scottish Office spokesman said yesterday: "It is not our practice to discuss the contents of documents which have been improperly obtained. Announcement of British participation is for the IAEA, handling the matter for the UN, and who have requested assistance from the UK and France in view of these countries' expertise."

In his letter to Mr Wakeham, Mr Lang said the possible participation of Dounreay "will cause me no little difficulty - especially from the SNP". However, Robert Maclean, Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness and Sutherland, said: "The UN has just revealed that Iraq was within weeks of possessing a nuclear delivery capability. We in this country should play our part in stripping that out and getting Iraq's nuclear material into safe hands. Dounreay is able to help the UN do that."



Soft-hearted strongman: one of the top Japanese sumo wrestlers now in London to compete in a grand sumo tournament, which starts at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, takes a firm grip on a Super Softie ice cream during a prolonged bout of sightseeing yesterday

Tories aim to boost NHS and cut taxes

Continued from page 1

the economic prizes in the European Community would go to the countries with low tax regimes.

Mr Patten's remarks on the BBC's *On the Record* programme will reassure right-wing Tory MPs that the party is not losing its distinctive cutting edge under Mr Major. This concern surfaced yesterday in a plea by Norman Tebbit, the former Tory chairman, for the party to concentrate on its "strong" issues.

Mr Tebbit said that Mr Major's rallying cry to the conference should emphasise the commitment to stable prices and lower taxes, a refusal to countenance rule by trade union bosses and a defence of choice, enterprise and the market system. Mr Major should, he said, deal with Labour's "mealy-mouthed lies" concisely.

The Conservatives' embarrassment over the NHS was compounded yesterday with

the disclosure that the Selsdon Group of right-wing Tory MPs, of which Mr Tebbit is president, is to publish a pamphlet tomorrow calling for a switch to a community-based insurance system of funding the NHS.

Robin Cook, Labour's health spokesman, pounced on the report, saying that it proved that privatisation was still on the Tory agenda.

Voting intentions in the PA/ICM poll were: Labour 42 per cent, Conservatives 40 per cent, Liberal Democrats 13 per cent, Greens 2 per cent, Scottish National Party 2 per cent. Polling was conducted between September 28 and October 3. NOP's ratings were: Labour 46 per cent, Conservatives 39 per cent, Liberal Democrats 13 per cent.

Mori poll, page 6
Blackpool party time, page 12
Peter Riddell, page 14
Diary, page 14

Pacific cyclone hits Wales

Continued from page 1

who have the dimension of a medium-sized deep freezer, came in horizontal, waist-high. The Welsh, quite simply, could not take it. For an hour they were overrun in every department; when Emyr, their winger, scored the try that prompted a revival in the last 15 minutes, the Samoans should long before have been out of reach.

Symbolic of the match was the moment of half-time: Clement was prostrate and motionless on the turf, while the massive flanker, Perelini, whose airborne 16-stone tackle arrived at the moment Clement released a pass, walked away unconcerned. "They will hurt a number of people," Iwan Evans, Wales' captain, said without rancour. "They knocked us back... I don't think this is the bottom, it was a better performance than against Australia [the summer slaughter]."

If something in Welsh rugby died on the day they were driven towards having to qualify for the next World

Cup, it was as though the public was prepared for the funeral beforehand. The match began with barely a murmur, in the land where rugby is religion.

It was only when defeat began to take the shape of humiliation, at 13-3, that pride surged back into the hitherto mauling spectators. Where a moment before the applause was for the visitors, now the cry went up for Wales. And Wales responded.

Suddenly, the strength drained from the Samoan front five. The Welsh ran the ball back and forth across the pitch. Emyr scored. Ring converted: 13-9. The hunt was on. Brilliantly, Ring gained 50 yards into touch. The Samoan backs remained steadfast. The powerful Lewis was stopped in his tracks yards from the line by men half his size. Gibbs, agonisingly, fumbled a pass 20 yards out with Samoa broken. Lima counter-attacked, was halted four yards out; and Vaea kicked the penalty that gave Samoa breathing space. Back came Wales. Davies was

smothered again; from the scrum, the ball was played back, out, and Evans went over in the corner. But it was too little, too late, too inferior.

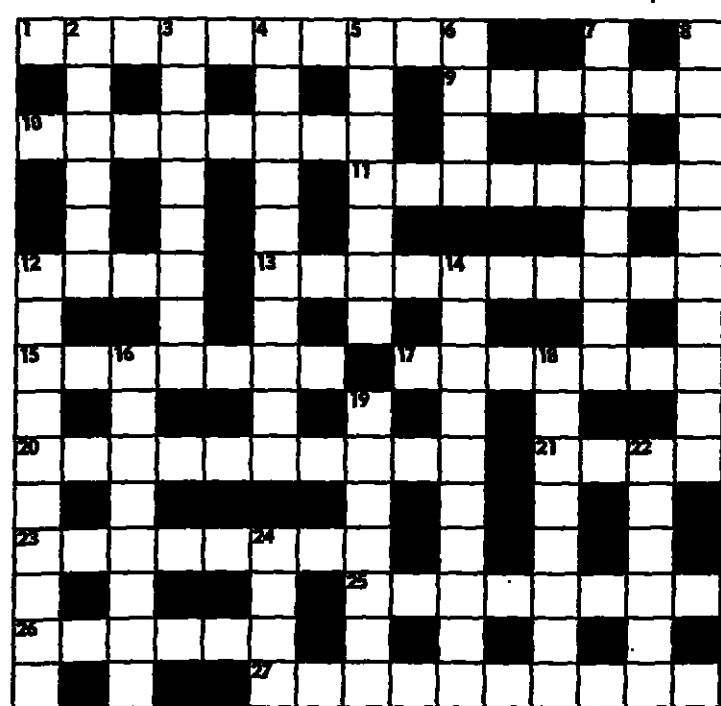
Fatalia said they ran out of petrol in the last ten minutes, but "we'll go for broke against Australia". Wales' coach, Norster, said they were going to a rehabilitation centre. That seemed appropriate.

Irish run riot, page 31
Wales match report, page 36

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Lovely blazers, juicy and crisp: Who thinks that "you should be able to shop for clothes like buying apples"? Giorgio Armani does. The man who restructured the idea of extravagantly priced designer clothes in the 1970s has done it again. Next month he launches a recession-busting collection of fashion staples for the 1990s - basic jeans and T-shirts, navy blazers and silk tops - mostly priced under £100. At the Milan shows, Liz Smith has already seen Armani's new simple strategy in action with his Emporio line - and she previews the sophisticated, clean cut of the main collection that Armani will unveil on Thursday

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,730



- ACROSS**
- Turner is employed to do some of the cooking (10).
 - Breed of goats originating from Aragon (6).
 - Vehicles holding a leading position - they have staying power (8).
 - The swan song showing taste (8).
 - Enchanting creature needing a little experience (4).
 - Gather one is to hold a key by manual arrangement (10).
 - Animal refuge that's about right for a certain group (7).
 - He may well be fired - but not for getting tight (7).
 - Adjournment a put-up job? (10).
- DOWN**
- Fish in an endless variety of colour (4).
 - Sturdy but stupid lot (8).
 - Contracts for trapping game (8).
 - There's some point to a flower festival (6).
 - Just supposing love is in the ascendant! (10).
 - The prophet of television (6).
 - Invite possibly about a hundred unemployed (8).
 - Standing still is not for women folk! (10).
 - Particular consideration (7).
 - Get near as can be (4).
 - In brave hands this could be deadly (8).
 - A check on stock in a minor way (6-4).
 - He's expected to step out with due regard for the dog (4-6).
 - Well the fellow just doesn't want to work! (10).
 - Incorrectly state it's most fishy-some (8).
 - Falls for a rotter involved in more than one lawsuit (8).
 - Construct the first inside in error (7).
 - Back a relentless union (6).
 - Kind and virtuous person without alternative (4).

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,729 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

- FATISM**
a. Discrimination against the fat
b. A belief in Fate
c. Compulsive habbling talk
- THERIAC**
a. A remedy
b. A narcotic leaf for chewing
c. An antidote to poison
- NARE**
a. To curve in coal
b. A breed of wild horse
c. A hawk's nostril
- ESCHAR**
a. A legal freezing of assets
b. To flambé in cooking
c. A piece of dead tissue

Answers on page 18, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

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Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER
The southeastern corner of England will be dry and bright with some sunshine. The rest of England and Wales will have a cloudy day with rain at times and just occasional brighter spells, more so in the north. It will be windy, with gales in parts of the north. Northern Ireland and Scotland will have a mixture of sunshine and showers. Outlook: sunny spells and scattered showers

MIDDAY: 12-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 2-noon; 3-noon; 4-noon; 5-noon; 6-noon; 7-noon; 8-noon; 9-noon; 10-noon; 11-noon; 12-noon; 1-noon; 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MONDAY OCTOBER 7 1991

Signs of recovery boost confidence

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS confidence is turning round, driven by signs of economic recovery, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the world's leading business information group.

A bullish assessment by the economics team at James Capel, the broker, however, suggests that the recovery is not yet complete. Capel says that the economy should have returned to year-on-year growth by the end of this year and be on course for 2.7 per cent growth in 1992. Capel says core inflation is set to collapse from 5.8 per cent in August to 2.5 per cent.

The quarterly survey by Dun & Bradstreet identifies a "significant turnaround" in business confidence in September, following the last base rate cut, with more optimism reported for all the main indicators. Expectations for higher sales, profits and orders in the next three months all show positive balances.

The balance for sales shows 11 per cent, against -13 per cent in the previous survey. Net profits are at 8 per cent, after -30 per cent, while new orders show 13 per cent (-17 per cent). There is a positive balance of 20 per cent of companies in favour of building up stocks.

Export expectations waned, however, and firms see little sign of a slowdown in unemployment. One in three expects to lay off staff. On prices, however, the survey shows a continued fall, confirming the downward trend in underlying inflation.

Philip Mellor, Dun & Bradstreet marketing manager, said that although the overall picture was "much, much better" than three months ago, the degree of optimism was "not sharp enough to indicate any more than a sluggish recovery in the economy". He stressed that levels of business confidence were only back to where they were at the beginning of the recession.

A survey by Infolink, the credit information agency, shows demand for consumer credit in August at 6.1 per cent higher than in August last year. Consumers are showing less enthusiasm for higher-value items, however.

Regulation 'game needs reviewing'

THE lack of clarity and certainty in rules governing Britain's privatised industries is turning regulation into a "game" between industry chiefs and regulators, according to the Institute of Economic Affairs.

The institute says the regulatory regime suffers from weak accountability, prevents judicial review, and keeps crucial information from the public.

Dr Cento Veljanovski, a senior research fellow, says the political imperative to privatise led to a trade-off in favour of monopoly and regulation. Therefore, "the structure of the industry is fundamentally at odds with the goal of competition".

He says a review body should be set up to compare progress on regulation with the original criteria set out by Professor Stephen Littlechild, now director general of electricity supply.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7410 (+0.0055)
German mark 2.9162 (+0.0006)
Exchange index 90.9 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2018.7 (-0.2)
FT-SE 100 2624.6 (+25.6)
New York Dow Jones 2961.76 (-44.28)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24596.90 (+627.43)

Toyota promises long-term employment at new plants

TOYOTA, the Japanese car manufacturer, is offering employees at its new British car plants unprecedented promises of long-term employment as part of a single-union, strike-free deal it is seeking (Philip Bassett writes).

Toyota's move comes as unions representing Ford's 32,000 manual workers prepare to press for improved job security. Next Monday, Ford workers will present management with detailed plans for a package based on American practices, which would increase the redundancy and other benefits available.

Lifetime employment is a principal feature of employee relations in Japan among the country's large corporations,

such as Sony, Nissan, Matsushita and Toyota. Although Japanese companies have exported many of their management practices when setting up in other countries, including their manufacturing plants in Europe, the guarantee of lifetime employment has never been offered outside Japan.

While Toyota's plans on job security at its car plant at Burnaston, near Derby, and its engine plant at Shotton, North Wales, stops well short of a lifetime employment guarantee, employment law specialists agree that it goes further than many British manufacturers have gone in determining to maintain employment for its workers.

The confidential 59-page draft agree-

ment that Toyota has put to the five unions bidding to be the chosen union at the two plants - the AEU engineering union, the EITPU electricians, the GMB general workers, the TGWU transport union and the MSF general technical union - stresses the job security of Toyota "members", the term Japanese companies often use for their employees.

The draft says members' job security, prosperity and development depend on the company continuing to grow and be successful. Both the company and the union chosen must recognise that the objective is not only to achieve short-term success but long-term prosperity.

The agreement says: "Recognising that

job security is a constant priority of members, the company aims to provide long-term stable employment and the opportunity for members to maintain their basic hours of work."

Employment law specialists believe that although this and similar phraseology in the agreement could not carry any contractual weight, unless the agreement is appended to individual employees' employment contracts, it is not only unusual for a British collective agreement but goes further than such agreements usually go.

What Toyota proposes is in line with the stability its British managers want in their workforce, the bulk of which will be hired

next year, in time for the start of production of 100,000 cars annually from next December.

As a consequence of the company's views on long-term employment, Toyota is carrying out the most extensive recruitment procedures ever seen in British manufacturing, with all employees, including production-line workers, likely to have to go through up to 14 hours of interviews and tests.

Toyota, which will require its British employees to be "good Toyota (UK) citizens" and to "perform excellent work", according to the draft, has caused some consternation among the unions with a number of its requirements.

Pay increases show sharp drop to 5.5%

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements in British industry are continuing to fall sharply, according to the latest survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which shows wage increases declining by almost a full percentage point, to 5.5 per cent, in the third quarter of this year.

The latest findings of the CBI's pay databank, published today, will be welcome economic news for the government, suggesting that the combination of lower inflation, lower interest and mortgage rates and still-rising unemployment is impacting strongly on pay, and continuing to persuade wage negotiators to accept lower deals.

The CBI survey comes

ahead of what is expected to be a further fall in headline inflation. Figures to be published on Friday are forecast by the City to show retail inflation continuing to fall. Some analysts suggest that August's 4.7 per cent figure may drop to 4.3 per cent.

Though CBI leaders are proclaiming the continuing fall in pay settlement levels as a significant economic improvement, independent pay analysts pointed out yesterday that the rate of increases recorded by the CBI, at 5.5 per cent for the three months to September, is still well ahead of inflation. If the City's forecasts are right, average inflation over the same period has been about 4.8 per cent.

In the last CBI databank survey, pay deals showed their sharpest fall for a decade when

they dropped from 8.1 per cent in the first quarter to 6.4 per cent. Now, one settlement in four is less than 4 per cent, compared with only one in 20 in the fourth quarter of 1990.

The CBI says today, too, that its latest pay figure is for settlements only, and therefore takes no account of the fact that one manufacturer in ten that would normally have struck a pay deal has instead frozen its pay. In addition, the CBI suggests that the unprecedentedly wide variation in the pay deals it is recording - the largest since the databank began in 1979 - suggests companies are increasingly relating pay directly to their own circumstances, breaking the link with the cost of living.

John Banham, CBI director general, said: "Pay settlements in UK manufacturing industry are now below the level of those in west Germany and closing on those in France, while productivity is rising. This bodes well for the competitiveness of Britain's businesses, for inflation and for the prospect of lower interest rates."

The CBI predicts that productivity may improve so much that unit labour costs may have actually declined, by 0.6 per cent, in the second quarter of this year.

In its autumn presentation on pay, the CBI raises the question of whether there is a "psychological barrier" of 5 per cent under which wage deals will not fall. Ministers are also concerned about this and will look next week to see if the increase in average earnings has fallen below 7.5 per cent for the first time for a decade.

The CBI also says that with inflation set to fall still further, there is little real prospect of pay rises starting to increase again when the economic recovery is under way. But in a separate pay analysis, the Reward pay group suggests that there may be a resurgence of pay inflation.

Local government manual workers have accepted pay increases of 6.5 per cent and improvements in hours. Jack Dromey, national secretary of the TGWU transport union, and a front-runner in the contest for the union's deputy general secretaryship, said it was a good deal that would see a better service for local communities.



Clear message: Sir Graham Day is expected to deliver a bullish speech today

Hanson profits criticised

HANSON, the acquisitive conglomerate, draws more than a third of its earnings from "low quality", or non-operating sources, such as tax avoidance, dealing profits and interest arbitrage, according to a confidential report by James Capel, the stockbroker (Neil Bennett writes).

The report is likely to fuel the criticisms of Hanson in the war of words with ICI that started in May when Hanson took a 2.8 per cent stake in the chemical group.

An investigation, led by Paul Beaufre, Capel's conglomerate analyst, has uncovered a web of Panamanian subsidiaries owned by Hanson and are used as tax havens for its huge interest earnings.

Capel estimates that the group generated 15 per cent of its earnings in 1989-90 by using loopholes in Britain to avoid paying tax on interest earnings. It says: "It must be assumed that the public airing given to this matter has attracted Inland Revenue attention at the highest level."

The broker says that a further 15 per cent of the group's earnings come from exploiting the differences in British and American interest rates: most of Hanson's debts are in dollars while it had sterling

cash deposits of £3.2 billion at the last balance sheet. The report also criticises Hanson's wide use of provisions on its accounts and predicts it will repeat the process with Beazer, the builder for which it has offered £551 million.

Mr Beaufre claims Hanson's accounting policies attract

"the disapproval of industrial conservatives and accounting purists", which accounts for the low value of the shares. Nevertheless he is advising institutions to buy Hanson shares, since he says these are taken into account in the price.

Treasures for investors, page 23

ATR in talks on De Havilland bid

From TOM WALKER
IN HAARLEM

LEADERS of ATR, the joint French-Italian aircraft consortium, will today open discussions with the European Commission to restructure its bid for De Havilland of Canada following the EC's decision to block the bid.

Roland Duman, the French foreign minister, yesterday said said Aerospatiale, which along with Alenia of Italy owns the Toulouse-based ATR, would open talks with the Commission. He said the blocking of the bid "had been a most regrettable decision", and that Sir Leon Brittan's competition team had "no business hampering European industry".

M Duman's insistence that the matter should be brought up at yesterday's meeting of European foreign ministers annoyed ministers, who felt they had more urgent matters to discuss with only nine weeks remaining before the Maastricht summit in December.

Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary said: "I was rather surprised it was discussed at all. The Commission has powers in this area; we were hesitant in granting them



Brittan: difficult decision

those powers, but now they have them. They are controversial and we've had our own problems in Britain, but what is certain is that they are not the business of the Council."

The decision to block the deal, which would have merged the world's number one commuter turbo-prop maker with the world's number two, was one of the most controversial Sir Leon has taken during his three-year term as competition commissioner.

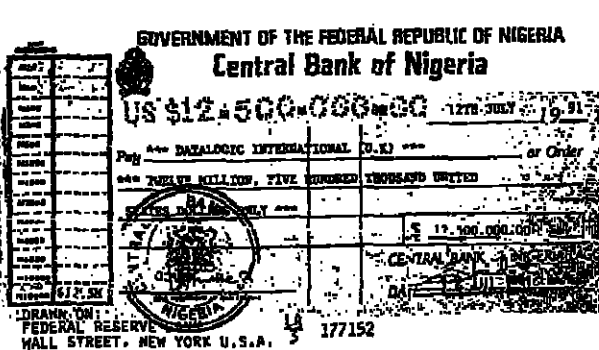
Sir Leon was rumoured to be threatening to resign if his fellow Commissioners voted against him.

Firms feel pain of an African sting

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of British businesses regret the day they received a letter from Nigeria offering them millions of dollars to play a part in a plan to defraud the Nigerian government. They soon found they were the victims of an international "sting", with little chance of seeing their money, or the fraudsters, again.

The latest wave of Nigerian fraud started last year, when dozens of small companies received letters from "consultancies" in Lagos offering what seemed an unbeatable deal. The author of the letter claimed he had access of a large sum of hard currency, normally about \$25 million, in a Nigerian government department. The money had been intended to pay for a large overseas contract, which, claimed the letter, had either



Draft of receipt: one of the fraudulent documents

been cancelled or been cheaper than expected: the department had simply forgotten the cash was still there.

The author said he could get the money but needed to send it to a hard currency account abroad. He concluded by asking for help in return for a 30 or 35 per cent cut. For many, the thought of a \$9 million windfall was irresistible. They wrote back and were soon

talking and writing daily to their new Nigerian "partner". He normally wanted four copies of blank, but signed company notepaper, false invoices and bank details.

In at least one case, the Nigerians travelled to Britain and stayed for a week, at their victim's expense, to plan the operation. In turn, they produced documents supposedly from the Nigerian finance

ministry and the central bank. One company was issued with a forged draft from the central bank for \$12.5 million drawn on the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

Transfer day arrived, but then came the last-minute hitch. The fraudster telephoned; he needed more money for bribing another official or to pay for passage to Europe to collect his share. Many companies handed over £10,000 or £20,000 to complete the deal. In every case, the Nigerians have never been heard from again.

Scotland Yard is investigating more than 100 cases, while others have been reported in The Netherlands and America. The Central Bank of Nigeria has published adverts disassociating itself from the frauds. Meanwhile, the maximum penalty for economic sabotage in Nigeria is death by firing squad.

TAP Super Navigator. The business package to Portugal.

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THE SCHEDULED AIRLINE WITH UNSCHEDULED BONUSES.

Ministers to press for debt relief deal

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

COMMONWEALTH finance ministers will this week seek to inject fresh momentum into the proposal John Major made as chancellor for cancelling most of the outstanding debt of the world's poorest countries.

The developing nations fear, however, that the leading industrial economies' pre-occupation with the Soviet Union and eastern Europe could prevent early agreement on the debt issue.

The associate membership of the International Monetary Fund granted to the Soviet Union at the weekend is likely to reinforce such fears, as a Soviet delegation can now attend meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Bangkok on October 13 to 17.

At a three-day meeting starting tomorrow in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, the Commonwealth ministers hope to agree on a joint call for urgent debt relief to finance ministers and central bankers at the Bangkok gathering.

The Conservative party conference will prevent Norman Lamont, the Chancellor,

from attending the Commonwealth meeting, but he will take part in a meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers in Bangkok on Friday and Saturday, before the IMF and World Bank sessions.

John Major, economic secretary to the Treasury, will represent him at Kuala Lumpur, where ministers will consider the British proposal for two thirds of the poorest nations' debt to be written off, with the remainder rescheduled over 25 years.

Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian finance minister who chairs the Commonwealth meeting, drew attention at the weekend to the fact that America had cancelled 70 per cent of Polish debt to Washington as a reward for Poland's move away from communism, but had failed to do the same for the poorest nations. He said the Commonwealth ministers would seek ways of ensuring that the poorer countries were not starved of capital because of an increased flow of funds to the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. Western governments and international agencies

have committed an estimated \$31 billion to eastern Europe since the end of 1989. Privatisation will be discussed by the Commonwealth ministers as part of a wider campaign to get the poorer economies to encourage inward investment by fostering the private sector.

Economic links with South Africa are also likely to be discussed although ministers are unlikely to endorse a restoration of normal commercial ties with the Pretoria government.

Mr Anwar said the debt problem would be discussed in the context of a report from a group of experts, *Changes for the better - global changes and economic development*. The flow of external funds to the poorest countries dropped in the late Eighties, while their debt burden rose, partly reflecting higher interest rates.

Recent figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, show that outstanding developing world debt last year swelled 4 per cent to \$1,450 billion. A decade earlier, it was less than \$600 billion.



Call to reject: Paul Torday, left, and Humphrey Odd

Torday's defence criticised

By OUR CITY STAFF

DOWDING & Mills, the host-bidders for Torday & Carlisle, the engineers, said yesterday that Torday's defence document concentrates on historic performance and not current problems.

In the document, posted on Saturday, Torday, chaired by Paul Torday, claims that the £13.6 million offer values the company at just 5.3 times its earnings for 1990, compared with an engineering sector multiple of 12.6 times.

However, a spokesman for Baring Brothers, which is advising Dowding, said that it was "very convenient" for Torday to select its 1990 figures when the company had slipped into pre-tax losses of \$0.6 million for the first half of the current year.

Torday countered by pointing out that Dowding had seen its own profits for the year to end-June slide by 28 per cent to £8.4 million and that the slide in Torday's profits was entirely due to the trading losses incurred by Oldham Signs, which has been hit by the consumer downturn. Torday, where Humphrey Odd is finance director, urged shareholders to reject Dowding's "derisory offer."

Shake-up at Fox expected as SFA chief takes over

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A SHAKE-UP of the London Futures and Options Exchange (Fox) looks certain to follow the appointment of Phillip Thorpe as chief executive after the departure of its two top officials at the weekend. The resignations of Saxon Tate, the chairman, and Mark Blundell, the chief executive, came at an extraordinary meeting of the Fox board on Saturday that was called to consider the closure of the exchange's property futures market.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), of which Mr Thorpe is deputy chief executive, began an investigation of the property futures market on Wednesday after detecting "possible irregularities in its operation". Fox suspended the market voluntarily after the regulators informed it of their discovery.

In a statement issued through his solicitor, Mr Blundell said he had initiated "various trading activities in the property contracts". It adds: "He now accepts that this activity was incompatible with his responsibilities and

he has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. The board is satisfied that the motivation was not personal gain." Though not directly involved, Mr Tate is thought to have accepted responsibility for the property futures affair.

In appointing Mr Thorpe, aged 37, Fox has indicated its intention to scrutinise its activities closely. Mr Thorpe, who is trained as a barrister, has an impressive reputation in derivatives market regulation in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. He came to prominence in 1987 as chief executive of the colony's futures exchange in the wake of the worldwide stock market crash. In 1989, he was appointed chief executive of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, which was merged with the Securities Association this April.

A spokesman for Fox said the exchange would like to relaunch the property futures market, but the SFA and the Securities and Investments Board must first complete their enquiries.

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ERM's impact is a matter of psychology

STERLING'S entry to the ERM a year ago will be judged one of the momentous decisions in modern economic policy. And yet, looking back over the past year, it is striking how little difference it has made to the conduct of policy or the behaviour of the economy.

At the time of entry, the thought was that British monetary policy would be largely determined by the Bundesbank. Indeed, many thought this shift of responsibility would be one of the main advantages of entry. The surprise has been the extent to which the differential between British and German short-term interest rates has narrowed - from about 6 percentage points before entry to about 1 point now. Not only have lower British rates owed nothing to lower German rates but, at times, British rates have been falling when their German counterparts have been rising.

Not that the easing of monetary policy has been unjustified - far from it. But it does mean the ERM has not (so far) worked as expected. The fall in base rates has been domestically driven, following inflation down. Inflation has improved for the simplest of reasons - the depth of the recession. All that can be said about the ERM's contribution is that a relatively stable exchange rate has been a conducive background factor.

The impact of ERM entry has probably been greatest in gilts. If being in the ERM has made little difference to inflation performance over the past year, it has changed expectations. There is a degree of confidence that the ERM constraint will inevitably become effective and the inflation psychology can be decisively changed.

A feature - perhaps the feature - of the economy since the end of the Bretton Woods system has been the tendency for relatively high wage settlements (or low productivity growth) to be offset by a tendency for sterling depreciation. As competitiveness has been lost, the adjustment has been external, via a depreciating currency, rather than internal via an improvement in the rate of increase of domestic costs. The point of the ERM is that without realignments the adjustment has to be internal.

Given the rigidity of inflation expectations in Britain, this adjustment could turn out to be a drawn-out, rather painful affair, involving relatively tight monetary policy, below-trend economic growth and high unemployment. But now there is a degree of confidence

this path will be taken, enhanced by the fact that exchange rate policy no longer seems to be part of the party political debate. There is a prize awaiting the next government - long-term, low-inflation growth. It may only be attained at the cost of restrictive monetary policy and low growth for a couple of years, but that may be an acceptable price to pay given political and economic cycles that could get back into line.

If we are on the threshold of a long-term inflation rate of 2.4 per cent, the potential for gain in the gilt market is obvious, despite the impressive performance of the market in the third quarter that generated a near 10 per cent return on long-dated gilts. Now, however, the market has stalled.

The problems facing the market are threefold. One is simply the doubts that the rosy scenario outlined above will come to pass. We have been on this threshold before - remember the MTF? - and the "I'll believe it when I see it" school of thought has yielded impressive returns.

Also, politics cannot be ignored. There will come a time when the general election can be delayed no longer and the market will be sensitive to every nuance of the opinion polls. This might be more of a threat to short-term long-dated gilts. With base rates only just above German short-term rates, sterling could be accident-prone during what could prove to be the longest election campaign ever.

Finally, there is the problem of gilt supply. A cyclical effect plus a policy shift have pushed Britain into fiscal deficit and the prospect of sub-optimal growth and a post-Thatcherite approach to public spending implies this is where it will stay. A deficit of about 2.3 per cent of GDP is modest by American or German standards but does imply the demand for fixed-interest securities in a low-inflation world will be met by a willing seller.

Longer term, the outlook for gilts remains very encouraging and the inflation outlook will allow a further degree of convergence with other European bond yields. Funding pressures may have more implications for index-linked than conventional gilts with real yields set to remain at historically high levels. Political uncertainty could have another ten months to run but we might be in the curious position where risk-averse investors will find the longer end of the gilt market preferable to shorter-dated stock.

JOHN SHEPPERD
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ANATOLE KALETSKY

If sterling fell to about DM2.80 during the winter, British base rates could fall to 9 per cent and mortgage rates into single figures. Election victory would be within reach, especially if the government would publicly admit the economic illiteracy of trying to manage a free health service through market forces, as discussed in this column last week. Of course, Britain's economic structure would have taken another lurch away from industrial competitiveness and back to consumer self-indulgence. But that was always the ERM's hidden agenda.

NOTICEBOARD

Political charter?

THE Parent's Charter, which was issued to schools last week, is running into opposition already. Teachers have criticised the government's pamphlet both on grounds of accuracy and its alleged political bias.

At least three million copies of the pamphlet have been printed as part of a £2 million government campaign to inform parents of their rights. The education department says it is up to head teachers whether they order copies of the charter for parents.

One school in Lancaster is threatening not to do so because staff question its accuracy, especially in advising parents that art and music can be dropped at 14. Peter Inson, a deputy head, says: "The choice comes at the end of the school year. I do not want to have a lot of pupils refusing to go to lessons on their fourteenth birthdays."

The Secondary Heads Association has guaranteed support for members who refuse to distribute what they regard as a political document. Mike Pugh, the president, says: "Some years ago the government was very concerned about the involvement of schools in political matters - does the proximity of a general election change things?"

Tripping up

AN argument over school exchanges is threatening a planned twinning agreement between Islington, in north London, and Arras, in northern France. Islington has balked at a French request for details of the ethnic origin of children on exchanges, despite assurances that the information was intended to keep black youngsters away from National Front supporters.

An Islington official said that the agreement would proceed only if Arras withdrew the request.

Tripping back

TWO educational charities have merged to secure the future of a centre that has been providing trips to the country for inner-city children for almost 20 years.

The demise of the Inner London Education Authority and spending cuts elsewhere had cut the number of visitors to the Out-of-Town Centre, in the New Forest, Hampshire.

The facility, based on a 90-acre farm, was to close last week until the intervention of the Countryside Education Trust, which runs non-residential programmes on the environment.

True guide

ANNE Hardy's guide to groups encouraging young scientists, published on September 23, included an old address for Creativity in Science and Technology (Creat). The organisation is now based at the Department of Educational Studies, Surrey University, Guildford GU2 5XH.

True grit

HUNDREDS of students are taking advantage of a new internal employment agency opened last week at the University of Wales.

Cardiff Students can earn up to £45 a week working the maximum 15 hours as porters, cleaners or doing catering jobs for Unistaff.

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University challenge: freshers'

The government is expanding higher education, but a survey by *The Times* found rising costs and a shortage of accommodation. John O'Leary reports

CHOOSING a university or a polytechnic has always been about more than just the prospecting of the government. Others, however, are matching the polytechnics with increased enrolment of 20 per cent or more. Almost all have continued to guarantee a residential place to first-year students, although in London this normally applies only to applicants from outside the capital.

A few polytechnics have also held their numbers steady, or registered only a small increase, but most are continuing the dramatic growth of recent years. Not many polytechnics can compete with the universities for availability of accommodation, although East London, Hatfield, Huddersfield, Kingston, Newcastle, Thames and Polytechnic South West do guarantee places for first-year students. Staffordshire, which hit the headlines last year with a gym full of homeless freshers, now has sufficient places to offer a guarantee to any students placing the polytechnic first or second on their application forms.

Rents and accommodation vary widely between institutions. Here geography tends to have more of an influence than university status, with City of London Polytechnic recording the highest weekly rent at £66 for full board. The

cheapest in the survey is Birmingham University's £18.50 a week for self-catering. Cheaper rents have been largely responsible for a shift in the balance of applications in recent years towards northern universities and polytechnics. Some in the expensive south east of England are

now trying to respond. Kingston Polytechnic, for example, refuses to list any accommodation costing more than £40 a week.

However, even northern institutions are seeing private sector rents rise as demand outstrips supply. Salford University had to resort to the

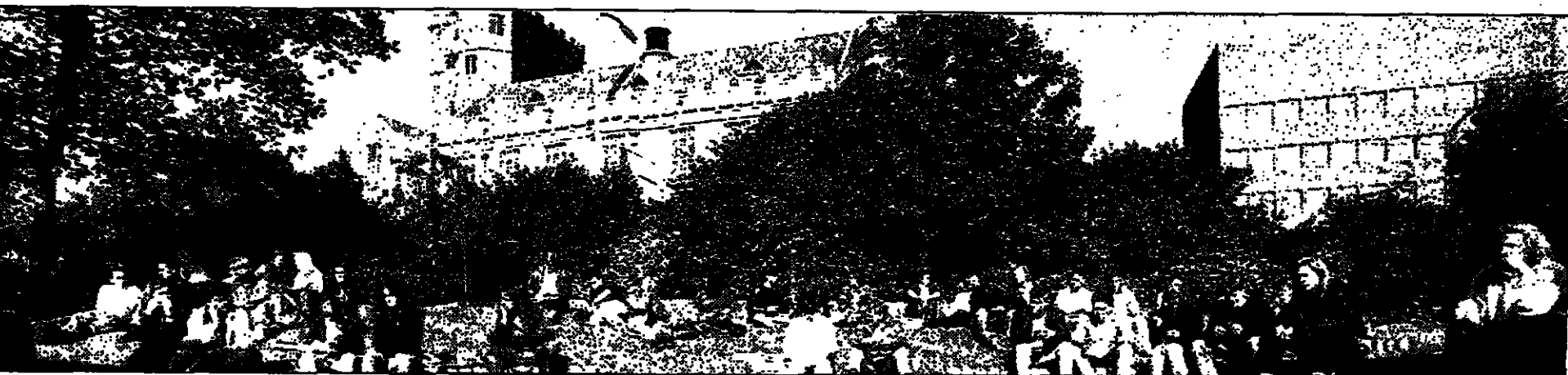
use of a sports hall last week to house some of its first-year students, while Lancashire Polytechnic is accommodating freshers in a Southport holiday camp for the second year in succession.

At Manchester Polytechnic, Dave Pester, vice-president of the students' union, says: "It is difficult to say whether the

problems are getting worse, but a lot of students are sleeping on other people's floors. Rents have shot up to £42 a week in popular student areas, so people are forced out into districts like Moss Side that are not necessarily safe. New students in particular may not know what is safe."

Costs are in pounds per week, unless stated: first-year students guaranteed places unless stated; ac self-catering; pa per annum; n/a not available; fb full-board; ft full-time; t no guarantees. Weekly costs unless stated. This table and the table opposite have been compiled by David Tyler, Education Editor

	New students	Change on 1990	Total students	Residential places	Rents (£)	Counsellors	First term dropouts in 1990
Anglia	5,000	n/a	12,500	1,000 priority†	38	3	20
Birmingham	2,500†	150-200	7,425†	1,350†	30	5	n/a under 12
Bournemouth	2,383	+300	5,482	250†	40-45	4	n/a
Brighton	3,500	+25-3%	10,000	1,475†	34ac	3	n/a
Bristol	5,000	Nons	13,000	1,000†	25-40	10	n/a
Central London	5,000	+6.5%	13,650	513†	40	9	n/a
City of London	1,500†	n/a	4,500†	488†	68ft/27-39ac	4	n/a
Coventry	3,300†	+500	8,400†	1,850†	45ft/27ac	3	100
East London	4,400	+450	9,500	730	25-42	5	n/a
Hatfield	4,087	+500	9,100	3,243 guaranteed for pre-May acceptances	27.80 hall/35.60 flat	6	n/a
Huddersfield	2,700	+186	8,556	1,012	25ac	2	76
Humbly Grove	2,100	+200	8,500	900†	30	5	2%
Kingston	2,700†	+50	6,700†	1,382 guaranteed subject to home proximity	37	5	50-70
Lancashire	3,100†	+100	7,500†	1,200†	26.28	3	180
Leeds	3,800†	+10%	16,000	800†	35	5	n/a
Liverpool	4,000†	+200	12,500	1,350†	25-38	3	n/a
Manchester	6,000	+1,000	15,500	1,300†	45ft/24-30ac	9	n/a
Manchester	9,180	+300	20,500	1,440†	55ft/35ac	3	300
Newcastle	5,000	+1,450	11,250	589†	42	3	84
Newcastle	3,877†	+40	9,289†	1,728 guaranteed for pre-July acceptances	50ft/28ac	3	n/a
North London	4,130	+370	8,250	423†	31-42	6	n/a
Nottingham	7,474	+10%	18,158	1,042†	42-50ft/32ac	6	100-150
Oxford	2,500†	+300	7,500	1,194†	37	5	n/a
Portsmouth	3,000	+270	10,000	1,188†	50ft/30ac	5	138
Sheffield	4,500†	+440	11,500†	2,028 priority†	1,550pa, hb/1,300pa, sc	2	n/a
South Bank	4,650	+420	11,500	812 priority†	45	4	1% in year
South West	3,500	+300	9,600	1,500	31	4	180
Staffordshire	2,850†	+100	9,800	2,400 guaranteed for those putting Staffs first or second through PCAS	27	3	100
Sunderland	2,700†	+400	6,700	1,890†	27	4	n/a
Teesside	1,500†	Nons	7,800	1,100 priority†	n/a	2	n/a
Thames	1,881†	+813	8,840†	1,300	35ac	4	38
Wales	1,900	-6%	5,500	506†	28-38	5	75
Wolverhampton	3,482†	+850	8,177†	1,522†	31.36	8	n/a



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Further particulars from Director of Personnel Services, P.O. Box 594, Fifth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 5UH (0742-768555, ext 4144) to whom applications including a CV and the names/addresses of three referees (3 copies of all documents) should be sent by 1 November 1991. Please quote reference MAP437.

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Further particulars of the Lectureship and the associated college fellowship may be obtained from Professor J.R. Brady, Deputy Director of Engineering Sciences, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PU (Fax 01865 273010), to whom applications should be sent, together with the names and addresses of three referees, not later than 31 October 1991.

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Please quote reference T/0086.

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The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday, 21st November 1991.

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(Ref: 85/91)

Prior to application, further information (including application procedure) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College Dublin, Bedford, Dublin 4 (quoting reference). Telephone enquiries: (+353-1) 2693244 or 706777 exts. 1412 / 1633 Fax: (+353-1) 2694409.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday, 21st November 1991.

CHAIR IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

The University of Strathclyde invites applications for a Chair in European History in the Department of History. Candidates should be scholars with outstanding records of research in any field of western or eastern European history from the later eighteenth century.

For application forms and further particulars (Ref 111/91) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, G1 1XQ.

Applications Closing Date: 8th November 1991.

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Further particulars from Dr C.H. Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Closing date 15 November 1991.

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In association with Somerville College or Lincoln College

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Applications (8 typed copies, 1 from overseas candidates) together with cv, list of publications, statement of research and the names of three referees should be sent by Monday 28th November 1991 to Professor L.M. Johnson, Lecturer in Molecular Biophysics, Room 10, Physics Building, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QJ, from whom further particulars (including details of the duties and the full range of emoluments and allowances relating to both the University and college posts) may be obtained (Fax 01865-519454).

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To oversee and develop the Trust's education work for all age groups. Relevant qualifications and experience necessary. Further details will be provided on request.

Applications with full c.v. please to:

Trevor Edwards, Director, Cornwall Trust for Nature Conservation, Five Acres, Alet, Truro, Cornwall TR4 8DJ

Closing date for applications 18 October 1991

RADLEY COLLEGE

Head Of Economics

A well-qualified graduate is required for a new post of Head of Economics in September 1992 to introduce Economics into the Sixth Form. Bilingual applicants encouraged.

Applications with full c.v., names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees to The Warden, Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2HR, from whom further details may be obtained.

ENGLISH TEACHER SAUDI ARABIA

£250pw + expenses

Qualified teacher sought by leading Saudi family to teach their two young girls (9 + 11) to a high level of spoken English and supervise their daily leisure activities. Knowledge of Muslim culture would be a great asset. Age pref 35+.

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(Independent Boarding: 419 girls 11-18)

SIXTH FORM HOUSE

We seek for September 1992 a highly qualified and dynamic person to run Founders' House (60 girls in second year Sixth).

The position requires a good knowledge of the world of higher education and a genuine interest in girls' development, and would ideally suit someone with several years' experience. The successful applicant will have a degree, and may be a teacher (no preferred subject).

This is an exciting career opportunity, and the appointee will join a flourishing residential team.

* salary Benenden scale (above standard scale)
* responsibility allowance and other benefits
* Founders' offers full family accommodation

Please write for details to Mrs Gillian duCharme, Headmistress, Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4AA. (Telephone: 0580-240592). Closing date: 24 October 1991.

FELLOWSHIPS

NEW COLLEGE OFFICIAL FELLOWSHIP IN MODERN HISTORY

The College proposes, if a suitable candidate applies, to elect an Official Fellow in Modern History with effect from 1 October 1992. The title of University Lecturer (CUR) may be conferred on the holder of the Fellowship. The title may at a later date (but without commitment on the part of the University) be converted into a stipendiary university post. The Fellow will be expected to teach British and European History within the College in the period c. 1400-1700 with special reference to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and to lecture on aspects of European History within the same period. Application forms and further particulars are available from the Senior Tutor, New College, Oxford OX1 3BN (tel. (0865) (2)79596). The closing date for applications is 30 November 1991. New College is an equal

In National Boarding Week, David Tytler explores Millfield's success, while below Tony Evans looks at political threats to independent schools

Weathering the storm

Boarding schools are having a difficult time as more and more parents reject them for social and economic reasons in favour of independent day schools. They also face legal restrictions brought about by the Children Act (see panel below) and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Now they are trying to reverse the almost 10 per cent drop in boarding since 1984. One initiative organised by private and state boarding schools is National Boarding Week, intended to promote education away from home.

Christopher Martin is the head of Millfield in Somerset, a school that has weathered the storm. He doubts whether the initiative is the best way of tackling the problems. "The virtues of boarding do need to be extolled," he says. "It is a life experience that teaches adaptability and confidence, but I do not see how you can isolate boarding from the rest of independent education."

Millfield has scored over other schools in the way it helps dyslexic children. The school took an interest in dyslexia when Jack

Meyer, its founder and first headmaster, decided to help people to "unlock their intelligence". The school now has 170 dyslexic pupils who, where possible, are taught in the main school but are taken out for extra English lessons.

"I came from a primary school in the Bahamas and it took me nearly two years to settle," says Marie-Louise Spence, now an assured sixth-former. Miss Spence left the special classes at the end of her fifth year and is now studying for her A-levels to become a forensic scientist. The school grounds, floodlit athletics track, swimming pool, golf course, library and new teaching blocks, show why Millfield was once Britain's most expensive school.

At £11,010 a year for full boarding, the school is now 17th in the fees league table. Day pupils pay £6,570. Four out of ten pupils receive a bursary or scholarship.

'Boarding is a life experience that teaches confidence and adaptability'

Thanks to careful financial management, Mr Martin is able to consider increasing the number of boarding houses to meet demand. The school has 28 houses, some up to five miles from the school and many with non-academic names such as Acacia House, Joan's Kitchen and Keen's Elm. Millfield has 175 day boys and 122 girls, and 585 boy boarders and 375 girls. The pupils are not selected at 13 on their academic ability but "for some special ability that we can draw out", Mr Martin says. Sixth-formers, however, are admitted only if they have four B and two C grades.

Mr Martin is proud of the school's reputation for its sporting prowess, but says: "It sometimes can be irritating to hear Millfield described as the sports school. We are so much more than that."

He also bristles at the suggestion that Millfield is a progressive

school: "We have pretty clear-cut and traditional discipline. We expect our pupils to be smart and to achieve a high standard of personal conduct."

School councils, where representatives of all the pupils tell staff how they believe the school could be improved, are a regular feature of Millfield life.

According to Jeremy Dhadi, a sixth-former, the pupils have won several issues, but, strangely, nobody could remember any of them.

"I can remember one," Mr Martin says, "but it rather backfired. They wanted a mail box nearer the centre of the campus, so we put one just outside the dining hall. In the first month we collected more knives and forks than mail. We re-sited the box."

Mr Martin would claim that Millfield remains true to its original intentions to bring out the best in all its pupils, but nobody could deny that it has come a long way since "Boss" Meyer opened it in 1935 with seven Indian princes as his pupils.



On the same side: Christopher Martin, the head, with pupils Jeremy Dhadi and Marie-Louise Spence

Society loses if schools' charitable status goes

Proposed changes would rob many children of a good education

HOW CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED

ONE of the main effects of the Children Act is that any school with fewer than 50 boarders will have to register as a children's home. Up to 150 schools are affected by the regulations and some are expected to stop boarding rather than face expensive and stringent regulations that heads claim are inappropriate for a school.

John Blatchly, the headmaster of Ipswich School, which has 40 boarders paying up to £5,840 a year, alongside his 555 day pupils, says: "We have had boarders in the school since 1400 and I am determined to carry on."

Schools caught by the regulations will have to explain to the social services department how they are "compensating children for the loss of their family", and will have to increase staff-pupil ratios, keep records on children for 75 years and be open to frequent inspection.

"These regulations are designed to protect children who have been placed in homes because they have nowhere else to go," says Dr Arthur

Hearnden, the general secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council. "Children are in our schools because their parents want them to be there. This is an extraordinary aberration."

"We are concerned that inspectors will have preconceptions, because they are used to dealing with institutions to which children have been sent because there is no alternative. We do not consider our schools to be disreputable exploiters of children."

Dr Hearnden says the schools have no objection to the regulations requiring them to be inspected, to ensure that all staff have a clean record before being appointed and to co-operate fully with social services departments. "We do object, however, to being treated as children's homes with all the connotations that brings," he says.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, has told the schools that officials will examine the regulations to see whether any exemptions can be made. Registration will cost up to £3,000.

The issue of whether independent schools should have charitable status has been a grumbling appendix for some time. Both the Labour party and the Liberal Democrats seem determined that charitable status will be given only to independent schools that can prove they are "genuinely charitable".

One popular belief is that independent schools no longer merit the description "genuinely charitable", despite the established principle that poverty is not a necessary qualification for trusts to be beneficial to the community. In fact, it has been widely accepted for many years that the provision of education benefits the whole community.

Independent schools feel that the political parties try to move the goalposts in order to further a populist definition of what constitutes a charity.

There is no difficulty in accepting the RSPCA as such. Independent schools are wrongly deemed by some not to merit such a definition, because they pursue their objects by trading, as do arts

organisations. Opponents of independent education — many of them politically motivated — are unable or unwilling to specify the criteria that would qualify a school for charitable status.

Few schools belonging to the Headmasters' Conference give full scholarships to the very gifted offspring of the wealthy.

The majority can see better ways of using their resources. Their sense of wider social responsibility is powerful. About 67,000 pupils are financially assisted by schools, which is twice the number of those who benefit from the government's assisted-places scheme.

Independent schools are not all opulent and in profit. Almost without exception they depend on fees to enable them to support poorer families through bursaries and the provision of boarding places. The removal of charitable status would prevent them from helping such children, thus making independent schools more, not less, exclusive.



Through their close links with the local community and maintained schools that are penalised by spending cuts, many independent schools offer their sports facilities free of charge; arrange staff training and management courses; arrange music courses; share field studies; and give adventure and leadership training. They are all seen as benefiting the community as a whole. One

might ask what more independent schools can do to prove their charitable purpose. The answer seems to be to provide more of the same, although offers are not always welcomed or facilitated by local authorities.

However, because independent schools have a genuine commitment to children from homes of slender means, they must find new and imaginative ways of increasing their bursaries, particularly if assisted places are discontinued.

One indisputable gift to society made by independent schools is forgotten or dismissed — the provision of highly educated, disciplined young citizens.

Independent schools do not have a monopoly in this respect, of course, but their popularity with parents is testimony to the esteem in which their values are held.

Why should charitable status be accorded to establishments providing tuition in music, ballet, art or sport and not given equally readily to those institutions, i.e.

schools, that foster scholarship? In the final analysis, it is likely that the schools would rather sacrifice that status than forgo their own standards, determine their curriculum, often enlightening national debate, and serve pupils and parents according to the latter's wishes.

People who now threaten to remove charitable status should pause to consider the effect. Chasms will open at the very time when independent schools provide, and wish to increase, direct assistance to the community. They should be encouraged to pursue that ambition rather than be penalised and rebuffed.

Independent schools wish to work with their local and wider communities and they must surely be allowed the means to do so with imagination and sensitivity.

● Tony Evans is the headmaster of Portsmouth grammar school, and chairman of the academic policy sub-committee of the Headmasters' Conference

071-481 1066

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

Scholarships

Entry Assisted Places. Sixth Form Scholarship examinations will be held at Oakham School 28-30 October 1991. The Junior Entry (11 years and 13 years) exams will take place at the School in January/February 1992.

Entry at 11 yrs. Two closed Scholarships for children of families resident in Rutland. Three Jerwood Exhibitions and Quatercentenary Bursaries.

Entry at 13 yrs. Two Scholarships providing full boarding and tuition fees. Five further Scholarships and a number of discretionary Bursaries.

Music. Generous Music Scholarships are available to those aged 11 or 13 who show considerable potential for further development.

Art. An Art Exhibition may be awarded to a candidate entering at 13 yrs. Government Assisted Places are available to suitable candidates.

For further details, please contact: The Registrar, Oakham School, Chapel Close, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6DT. Telephone (0572) 722487

Oakham School

THE LEYS SCHOOL CAMBRIDGE SIXTH FORM PLACES 1992

Applications are now invited on behalf of Girls and Boys wishing to make direct entrance into the Sixth Form. The Leys is centrally located in the city of Cambridge.

- * A wide range of 'A' level subjects are available including Theatre Studies, Business Studies and Design Technology
- * Special Awards and Assisted places are available.
- * Sixth form scholarship examinations to be held Feb 8th 1992.
- * Interviews will be taking place shortly.

Prospectus and further details from:

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Cambridge
CB2 2AD
Tel: 0223 355327

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315 acres of parkland
Easy access to London & Heathrow
Excellent facilities
High standards & traditional values
A rich extra-curriculum

Scholarships

Open Academic and Music Scholarships a 9+, 11+ and 6th Form Entry. 6 Foundation Scholarships for Boarders at 11+
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NAIL ART
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TRENDS
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LOCAL IN YOUR GAP YEAR
Courses commence January, April, September
Recognised by The British Accreditation Council
Write or telephone for a Prospectus
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Telephone (02323) 39851

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Fax (0295 57) 80467
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Tutorial system; high pass rate in public examinations; wide range of A-Level subjects offered; Careers guidance - all girls take ISCO Morrisby (vocational guidance) tests, and almost all girls go on to Further Education.
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Fax: 071-370 7312

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SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS

In November 1991 the examination will take place for Sixth Form Scholarships. This can be taken by girls who will be taking their GCSE Examinations this year and entering the Lower Sixth in September 1992. Scholarships are offered as a result of examination and interview. Entries to be in by the 28th October 1991.

In January and February 1992 examinations will take place for the following Scholarships:

Academic Awards (for candidates under 13 on 1st June 1992)
Five major Scholarships and two Exhibitions are offered annually as the result of examination and interview.

Music Awards (no age limit)
Two Scholarships and one Exhibition are offered annually for candidates showing outstanding promise in Music.

Entries for the academic and music awards to be in by 1st December 1991.

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Founded 1899
An 8-11 independent mixed boarding school run on UK lines. International Baccalaureate courses run in French and English with intensive French tuition as necessary. Excellent sports facilities including Sports Centre, Riding School with indoor and outdoor rings, swimming pool, and go-cart circuit.
Enquiries to The Headmaster
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Fax: 010 33 23 32 72 81

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St Christopher School has never lost sight of the central importance of the individual. Since 1913 we have aimed to show care and to encourage creativity in a combination that gives young people both intellectual confidence and scope for life-long fulfilment.

Our campus has the atmosphere of an informal village with homely boarding houses for younger pupils and modern-style accommodation in the Sixth Form. The day is vigorous. Children - and parents - of independent spirit respond well to the warm and purposeful ethos and to the opportunities for self-government. There is much to challenge both mind and spirit with 16 common rooms to A level, superb facilities for drama, music and art, a strong emphasis on sciences and modern technology, and adventure training for all.

Boy and girl boarders admitted at age 8-13 and directly into the Sixth Form. The Senior School of 370 is largely boarding. One mile from A1 (M) and 35 minutes from Kings Cross.

Contact Mary McNab (Admissions Secretary) for prospectus.
Telephone (0462) 679301 Fax (0462) 481578

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Tel: (0223) 313484 FAX: (0223) 333352

MILTON ABBEY SCHOOL BURSAR and Secretary to The Governors

Applications are invited for The Post of Bursar of Independent School for 275 boys in mid-Dorset. Post becomes vacant in September, 1992 following retirement of present Bursar.

Candidates should be aged between 35 and 50 and should have wide administrative and financial experience. Unfurnished house provided in School Grounds.

Particulars of appointment and application forms may be obtained from Secretary to Governors, Milton Abbey School, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 0BZ.

DOWNSIDE SCHOOL (Roman Catholic - Benedictine Community) ENTRIES 1992

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIP: up to half annual fees for 2 years. Decided by examination and interview at Downside School Friday 17th January to Sunday 19th January, 1992.

Downside is an Independent Boarding School for Roman Catholic Boys aged 13 to 18 years, with a strong academic and sporting tradition. Situated at the foot of the Mendips Hills in the beautiful Somerset countryside, 12 miles from Bath and Bristol.

Further details of the Scholarships and the School are available from:

The Head Master, Downside School,
Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Bath BA3 4BL, England.
Tel: 0761 222205 Fax: 0761 233575

Cauthen to collect Warwick double

IF RIDING at Warwick on a Monday after a weekend spent in Paris feels a bit of a comedown, there should be compensation for Steve Cauthen with a double on the Midlands track, thanks to Stone Mill (2.30) and White Witch (3.00).

Sheikh Mohammed's retained jockey takes over from Barry Hills's promising apprentice Colin Munday on Stone Hill, my selection for the Queen Bess Stakes. Ridden by Munday, Stone Hill has been in fine form late winning three of his last four races and finishing second in the other, over distances ranging from a mile to ten furlongs.

It is that ability to get those distances that could well turn out to be his trump card today when he does battle over seven furlongs with Sumonda, who won over today's trip at Ayr last time.

The exquisitely-bred White Witch ran well enough in the race won by Kasha Flower at Kempton last time to suggest that she should become the second leg of Cauthen's double by winning the Wroxhall Maiden Stakes.

While the American will be hoping to win the Mop Maiden Stakes as well for

where Tamim is napped to win the Claxton Bay Graduation Stakes.

Already a winner on this same South Yorkshire track and at Haydock much earlier in the season, this Tom Jones-trained two-year-old should have much too much firepower for today's opposition judged on his third behind Biala Jidal at Doncaster on St Leger day.

Needing only five more winners to reach his target of 40 this season (if he does so he will land a sizeable bet), the Epsom trainer Geoff Lewis will be understandably hungry to take another step up the ladder of success by winning the Caroni Nursery with Don't Leave Me, who showed the requisite stamina when winning last Tuesday at Brighton.

Finally, following their deserved triumph in Saturday's Cambridgeshire with Mellotte, Mary Reveley and John Lowe can celebrate by also winning the Trinidad & Tobago Handicap with Firm Price, who made an eye-catching comeback on the Flat at Newcastle six days ago when he finished fourth behind Scholem after a spell hurdling and steeplechasing in the care of John Edwards.

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Sheikh Mohammed on Stone Hill, who certainly ran with a degree of promise first time out at Brighton, I much prefer the Peter Chapple Hyam-trained Feminine Wiles, who was hampered twice in the straight at Doncaster before eventually finishing third in the May Hill Stakes.

After a stewards' inquiry she was deservedly promoted to second on the disqualification of Fern.

Feminine Wiles gets today's trip well even though she is by the sprinter Abnora; that stamina coming from her dam, who is a half-sister to Law Society.

The conditions of the Arden Stakes would appear to give Lucky Guest a fine chance of beating Grammos, thus enabling his jockey Willie Carson to rival Cauthen by also completing a double, to be accepted at the end of the programme by Stocking winning the Prince Rupert Handicap.

Niven foiled by Kelso ruling

PETER Niven rode the first five winners at Kelso on Saturday, and was only prevented from going through the card by the stewards.

After partnering the first four winners, Niven was offered the ride on last season's favourite Rawan by Graham McCourt - provided he made it five out of five on Danza Heights in the fifth race.

But, after Niven had duly won on Danza Heights, the stewards refused to allow the switch under Rule 141.

Mccourt was left to steer Rawan to an easy win over rival Souther's Hill in the concluding race.

Had Niven been allowed to ride Rawan, he would have become only the third jockey to go through the card in a six-race programme in Britain.

Niven has twice partnered four winners at a meeting - at Sedgfield and Edinburgh.

His five-time local on Go Tally-Ho (7-4), Local Customer (4-6), Ambuscade (2-1), The Matikila (2-1) and Danza Heights (2-7).

Ambuscade and Danza Heights are both trained by Mary Reveley, also successful in the William Hill Cambridgeshire, with Mellotte.



Niven: first five winners at Kelso

2.25 LA TRAVIATA HANDICAP CHASE

(22.22m; 4y) (5 runners)
1. 455 TWITRELL LAD (14) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 456 WILL BEAT (14) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 457 PLYMOUTH (14) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 458 TORRE TRADER (11) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 459 PASADENA (14) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

2.55 RIGOLETTO HANDICAP CHASE

(22.133m; 4y) (5 runners)
1. 452 TIGERS PET (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 453 TIGHT TIGHT (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 454 TIGHT TIGHT (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
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7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

3.35 TOSCA CLAMMING HURDLE

(21.470m; 2m) (8)
1. 1322 NORDIC DELIGHT (11) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 1323 NORDIC DELIGHT (11) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 1324 NORDIC DELIGHT (11) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 1325 NORDIC DELIGHT (11) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 1326 NORDIC DELIGHT (11) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

4.05 AVONHOLT HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.551m; 2m) (4)
1. 114 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 115 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 116 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 117 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 118 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

4.35 CARMEN NOVICES HURDLE

(21.417m; 2m) (7)
1. 4313 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 4314 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 4315 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 4316 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 4317 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

PONTEFRAC

MANDARIN 2.15 Contessa, 2.45 Stapleford Lady, 3.15 Preceptor, 3.45 Firm Price, 4.15 Don't Leave Me, 4.45 TAMIAM (nap), 5.15 King Of Chance.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.45 TAMIAM.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.45 TAMIAM.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (WITH FIRM PATCHES). DRAW: SF-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST.

2.15 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; 22.615; 1m 4yd) (12 runners)

1. 44420 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 44421 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 44422 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 44423 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 44424 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

2.45 BUCCOO REEF SELLING STAKES (22.558; 1m 4f 8yd) (11 runners)

1. 44420 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 44421 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 44422 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 44423 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 44424 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

3.15 JOHN SMITH'S BITTER HANDICAP (24.698; 5f) (15 runners)

1. 44420 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 44421 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 44422 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 44423 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 44424 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

4.05 AVONHOLT HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.551m; 2m) (4)
1. 114 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 115 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 116 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 117 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 118 KATHY COOK (17) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

4.35 CARMEN NOVICES HURDLE

(21.417m; 2m) (7)
1. 4313 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 4314 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 4315 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 4316 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 4317 FINE WARRIOR (9) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.05 MADAME BUTTERFLY HANDICAP HURDLE

(21.537m; 2m) (6)
1. 212 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 213 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 214 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 215 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 216 AMBER NECTAR (13) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

3.45 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO HANDICAP (22.889; 2m 1f 22yd) (14 runners)

1. 44420 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 44421 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 44422 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 44423 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 44424 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

4.15 CARONI NURSERY HANDICAP (22.852; 1m 4yd) (19 runners)

1. 44420 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 44421 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 44422 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 44423 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 44424 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

4.45 CLAXTON BAY GRADUATION STAKES (22.855; 5f) (6 runners)

1. 44420 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 44421 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 44422 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 44423 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 44424 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.15 MARAVAL HANDICAP (23.099; 1m 4yd) (22 runners)

1. 44420 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
2. 44421 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
3. 44422 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
4. 44423 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn
5. 44424 DARTON PRIORITY (10) (P) S. W. 11-10 C. Llewellyn

7-4 Twitrell Ld, 5-2 Will Beat, 11-2 Pasad, 6-1 Torre Trader, 14-1 Plym.

5.15 MARAVAL HANDICAP (23.099; 1m 4yd) (22 runners)

